

Town of Palmer

Bondsville, Depot Village, Thorndike & Three Rivers



Annual Report

July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009



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FACTS ABOUT PALMER

SETTLED	1716
INCORPORATED AS A DISTRICT	1752
ACCEPTED AS A TOWN	1776
LOCATION	About 15 miles east of Springfield on Rte 20
HIGHEST ELEVATION	Colonel's Mountain 1179 feet
POPULATION	12,750
FORM OF GOVERNMENT	9-Member Town Council Town Manager
TAX RATE – FY2009	
TOWN	\$14.05 per \$1,000.00 of evaluation
FIRE DISTRICT TAX	
DISTRICT #1	\$1.14 per \$1,000.00 of evaluation
DISTRICT #2	\$1.37 per \$1,000.00 of evaluation
DISTRICT #3	\$1.72 per \$1,000.00 of evaluation
DISTRICT #4	\$1.15 per \$1,000.00 of evaluation
NUMBER OF DWELLINGS	Approximately 4,262
PROPERTY VALUATION	\$1,012,035,013
AREA	Approximately Land 20,110.00 acres; Water 457.5 acres; Total 20,568.4 acres; Square Miles: 32.14
HOSPITAL	Wing Memorial Hospital
STREETS AND HIGHWAYS	Approximately 150 miles
PUBLIC SCHOOLS	Palmer High School Converse Middle School Old Mill Pond Elementary Pathfinder Regional Technical High School
FIRE PROTECTION	Four Fire Districts: Palmer Fire District 1: Chief Alan Roy heads a 32-member call force with a full time Captain and Lieutenant; Three Rivers Fire District 2: Chief Patrick O'Connor heads a 34-member call force;

	Bondsville Fire District 3: Chief Scott Gustafson heads a 26-member call force; Thorndike Fire and Water District 4 is protected by Palmer Fire District 1.
TRANSPORTATION	PVTA Village Bus, Peter Pan Bus (Walnut Street, Palmer), Council on Aging Van for transportation for seniors.
POLICE	Well established full-time police department and Emergency Dispatch center headed by Chief of Police, Robert Frydryk
RECREATIONAL FACILITIES	Walter (Beebe) Chase Memorial Park, Legion Field, Eager Playground, Palmer, Nick Laviolette Park, Three Rivers, plus playground and recreational equipment at Three Rivers Common, and Endelson Playground, Bondsville.
PUBLIC LIBRARY	1455 North Main Street, Palmer

**GOVERNMENTAL DISTRICT
AND REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE
TOWN OF PALMER**

UNITED STATES SENATORS

Paul G. Kirk, Jr. (appointed to fill seat of Ted Kennedy)
John F. Kerry, Boston

REPRESENTATIVE IN U.S. CONGRESS

Second Congressional District
Richard E. Neal

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Seventh Councilor District
Thomas J. Foley

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT

Worcester, Hampden, Franklin
and
Hampshire Senatorial District
Stephen M. Brewer

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT

First Hampden Representative District
Todd M. Smola

HAMPDEN COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

William M. Bennett, Springfield

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

BOARD OF APPEALS

Antonio Andre, Chairman

Russell Brown

Norman Z. Czech

Dennis Fountain

Ingrid Thompson

Gary Doane, Alt.

Walter Solzak, Alt.

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Lawrence M. Jasak

Michael J. Burns

Beverly Morin-Lizak

BOARD OF REGISTRARS

Patricia C. Donovan

Genevieve Janosz

Margaret Higgins

Barbara J. Stone

BOARD OF HEALTH

Paul Benard, Chairman

John Lukaskiewicz

Jayne Heede

Lorri McCool, Health Agent

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

David E. Johnson, Chairman

Donald R. Duffy

Peter Izyk

Robert J. Ring

Matthew Trybus

Christine Beauregard

COUNCIL ON AGING

Ernest Charland, Chairperson

Genevieve A. Bates, 1st Vice Chair

Mary Hubert, 2nd Vice Chair

Deborah Strauss, Secretary

Edward Bradlenski

Betty Koss

Gloria Brouillette

Pearl Coyer

Linda Lamay

Audrey Julian

Alice Smith

AUXILIARY POLICE FORCE

Jason S. Pare

John A. Banas

BROWNFIELDS REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Beverly Morin-Lizak

David Johnson

Alice Davey

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE (COUNCIL APPOINTED)

Philip Hebert, Councilor

Roger Duguay, Councilor

Mark Avis

Carl Bryant

Iris Cardin

Kathleen Mailhot

Keith Parent

John Sasur, Jr.

Rudolph Wilk

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Emer. Mgt. Director – Donald C. Elliott, Jr.

Officer Kenneth White

Fire Chief (Alan Roy)

Fire Chief (Scott Gustafson)

Fire Chief (Patrick O'Connor)

Dispatcher (Tammy Piechota)

Police Chief (Robert Frydryk)

Board of Health Rep (Paul Benard)

Hospital Rep. (Vacant)

Palmer Water District (James Ammann)

Thorndike Water District (M. Marciniak)

Three Rivers Water District (J. Sasur Jr.)

Bondsville Water District (Gary Pierce)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Alice Davey, Community Development Director

Linda Leduc, Planner

Beverly Morin-Lizak, Assessor

Melissa Zawadzki, Treasurer

Richard Rollet, Building Inspector

Matthew Streeter, Town Manager

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (Council Appointed)

Paul E. Burns, Chairman

Roger R. Duguay, Jr.

John B. Dinuovo

John L. Sasur, Jr.

Steven Cormier

Renee Stolar

Robert Young

Russell Brown
Joseph Turek
Cathleen Riberdy
Kathleen Mailhot

GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE

John Sasur, Chairman
Nicholas Zeo
Board of Health Rep. (Paul Benard)

HANDICAPPED SERVICE COMMITTEE

Neil Metcalf
Richard Rollet

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Robert Ring, Chairman
Marion P. Lis, Treasurer
Lorraine Novak, Secretary
Stephen Nowak
Harold Olson
Rose Riskalla
Eric Raymond
Donna Guerin, Associate Member

HOUSING PARTNERSHIP/FAIR HOUSING COMMITTEE

Real Estate Broker - Vacant
Developer - Vacant
Attorney - Vacant
Resident-Margaret Higgins
Housing Authority-Jean Leonard
School Committee Rep.
Gerald Madigan

INSURANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Paraprofessionals/Aides- Melanie Leibold, CMS
Palmer Teachers Association – Deborah Charwick, OMP
Palmer School Nurses/Clerical Workers – Scott Macey
Palmer School Custodial Association – Peter Galica, CMS
Palmer School Cafeteria – Catherine Les, OMP
Palmer D.P.W.- Michael Moynahan
Palmer Police IBPO – Robert Dickson and Paul Lukaskiewicz
School & Town Clerical Workers UFCW #1459 – Scott Macey & Susan Fontaine
Emergency Telecommunicators – Neal Byrne

LICENSE COMMISSIONERS

Richard L. Fitzgerald, Chairman
Robert Frydryk
Dennis Gaudreau
Theodore Simard
Michael Magiera

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Board of Health Rep (Paul Benard)
Conservation Commission (Dave Johnson)
Palmer Ambulance Service (Dave Clark)
Palmer Fire Chief (Alan Roy)
Three Rivers Fire Chief (Patrick O'Connor)
Three Rivers Water Dept. (John Sasur Jr)
Capt. Palmer Fire Dept. (David Pranaitis)
Palmer Water Superintendent (James Ammann)
Chief of Police (Robert Frydryk)
Emergency Mgt. Director (Donald Elliott, Jr.)

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT BLOCK GRANT ADVISORY BOARD

James Lynch
Attorney Timothy J. Rogers
Robert P. Frydryk

OPEN SPACE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Conservation Member (Donald Duffy)
Town Planner – Linda Leduc
Planning Board Rep. (M. Marciniak)
Council Rep. (Vacant)

PALMER CULTURAL COUNCIL

Erin Pincince, Chairman
James Athearn
Eileen Benoit
Mary Bernat
Christine Miarecki
Carol Siegel
Ann Wright

PALMER HOUSING AUTHORITY

Veronica A. Strzeminski, Chairman
Margaret M. Higgins
Ronald W. Lemanski
Mildred Jasak
(Germaine Lefebvre – State Appointee)

PALMER REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Blake Lamothe, Chairman
David Swirk
Anthony Matejczyk
(Michael Pajak – State Appointee)

SAFETY/TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Police Chief (Robert Frydryk)
DPW Director (Richard Kaczmarczyk)
Building Inspector (Richard Rollet)
Palmer Fire Chief (Alan Roy)
Three Rivers Fire Chief (Pat O'Connor)

Bondsville Fire Chief (Scott Gustafson)
Ambulance Rep. (Vacant)
Ronald Masnicki

FIRE & WATER DISTRICT STUDY COMMITTEE

James Ammann
Alan Roy
David Supczak
Mark MacDougall
Patrick O'Connor
Russell Brown
Michael Marciniak
Robert Haveles
Albin Les
John McElduff
Keith Parent
John Dinuovo
Gerald Chudy

TOWN COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEES

APPOINTMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE

John Dinuovo
Michael Magiera
Roger Duguay

DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET/ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

Public Service Division:

Paul Burns
Roger Duguay, Jr.
Michael Magiera
John Dinuovo

Public Safety Division:

George Backus
Philip Hebert
John Dinuovo
Roger Duguay

Public Works Division:

Michael Magiera
Paul Burns
Raymond Remillard

Municipal Finance Division:

Barbara Barry
John Dinuovo
George Backus

NON-TAX REVENUE COMMITTEE

Barbara Barry
Michael Magiera
Philip Hebert
Raymond Remillard
Mary Salzmann (School Committee Rep)

TOWN MANAGER GOALS COMMITTEE

Barbara Barry
Michael Magiera
Paul Burns

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Paul Burns (town council rep)
Roger Duguay (town council rep)
John Dinuovo (town council rep)

REGIONAL CASINO IMPACT COMMITTEE

Paul Burns (primary)
George Backus (alternate)

ELECTED OFFICIALS

COUNCILLORS AT LARGE

(4-yr. Term ending 2009)
George A. Backus
John B. Dinuovo
David E. Whitney (resigned 4-13-09)
Michael R. Magiera
Paul E. Burns
Raymond Remillard (appointed to fill vacancy)

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

(4-yr. Term ending 2011)
Philip J. Hebert, District #1
Barbara A. Barry, District #2
Matthew Lovell, District #3 (resigned 1-12-09)
Roger R. Duguay, Jr., District #4
Karl Williams (appointed to fill vacancy)

TOWN CLERK

Patricia C. Donovan (Exp 2011)

PLANNING BOARD (4 YRS)

Michael Marciniac (Exp 2009)
Diane R. France (Exp. 2011)
Norman Czech (Exp. 2011)
James Haley (Exp. 2009)
Thomas Skowyra (Exp. 2009)

SCHOOL COMMITTEE (4 yrs.)

Mary Salzmann (Exp. 2009)
Muareen R. Gallagher (Exp. 2011)
James St Amand (Exp. 2011)
David Lynch (Exp. 2009)
Robert Janasiewicz (Exp. 2011)

PATHFINDER REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Michael J. Cavanaugh (Exp. 2010)
David M. Droz (Exp. 2012)

PALMER CHARTER COMMISSION (ELECTED)

Paul Burns, Chairman
Joseph Mastalerz, Vice-Chairman
Eric Duda, Clerk
Charles Abbate
Raymond Domey
Richard Fitzgerald
Michael Pajak
David Whitney
Paul Wisnewski

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Town Accountant	Valerie Bernier
Town Planner	Linda Leduc
Community Development Director	Alice Davey
Veteran's Agent/Burial Agent/Graves Officer	Mark Avis
Town Counsel	Charles Ksieniewicz
Associate Town Counsel	Michael Ciota
Town Auctioneer	Kevin Gouvin
Building Inspector	Richard Rollet
Assistant Building Inspector	(vacant)
Gas Inspector	Gary Stahelski
Electrical Inspector	Arthur Miner
Assistant Electrical Inspector	Gerald Weston
Plumbing Inspector	Gerald Nichols
Constable	Norberto Garcia
Constable	James Lynch
Constable	William McCarthy
Constable	Robert Frydryk
Fence Viewer	Joseph Nietupski
Forest Warden	Alan Roy
Animal Inspector/Dog Officer	Frederick Guzik
Asst. Animal Inspector/Asst. Dog Officer	Wanda Guzik
Sealer of Weights & Measures	Joseph Serrato
Asst. Sealer of Weights & Measures	John L. Auchter
Sexual Harassment Grievance Officer	Patricia A Kennedy
Sexual Harassment Grievance Officer	Richard Rollet
Vermin Inspector	James Chadwick

Director of Public Safety
Treasurer/Tax Collector
Emergency Management Director
Town Assessor
Department of Public Works Director
WWTP Superintendent
Council on Aging Director
Hampden County Housing Services Advisory
Committee
Palmer Public Library Council Rep.
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
Pioneer Valley Planning Comm. Policy
Advisory Rep.
P.V.T.A. Advisory Council Member
Quaboag Valley Business Assistance
Corporation
Environmental Certifying OfficeHearings
Officer/Building Code Violations

Robert Frydryk
Melissa Zawadzki
Donald C. Elliott, Jr.
Beverly Morin-Lizak
Richard Kaczmarczyk
Gerald Skowronek
Erin Pincince

Jean Leonard
John Dinuovo
Michael Marciniac,

Richard Kaczmarczyk,
Matthew Streeter
Ronald P. Christiansen

David Johnson
Matthew Streeter

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE

TOWN MANAGER

I am pleased to present this report to the citizens of Palmer. My first year as Town Manager has been both a trial by fire and a study into how far we have come. During my first weeks on the job in August of 2008, I dealt with a double-arson event in Three Rivers, a major sinkhole on Calkins Road, a significant downgrade in rating of a main arterial local bridge by Mass Highway and the resignation of the Town Treasurer/Collector after mere weeks on the job in her own right. So began my tenure here in Palmer.

The first four months on the job, I was acting as the Interim Treasurer/Collector in addition to my job as Town Manager. It was priority number one to address the matters in these offices, which are critical to the financial sustainability of the town. The economy, already sliding deeper into recession, impeded our collections and placed an additional burden on our already conservative cash management. I wish to thank the staff in the Treasurer/Collector's offices for their cooperation in working through the issues and Councillor Barbara A. Barry for her efforts, which helped keep the town financial workings operating.

External to Palmer, the worsening state and national economy cast dark clouds over our fiscal health. The state began warning municipalities in October that with declining revenues in the Commonwealth, the likelihood on mid-year cuts in aid to municipalities were increasing. On January 28, 2009, the Governor Deval Patrick utilized his 9c budget-cutting authority granted by the legislature to reduce \$128 million in municipal aid as part of a plan to close a \$1.1 billion hole in the state's FY09 budget. Each city and town in Massachusetts received a 9.74% reduction in its municipal aid; Palmer's share of reduction was \$243,225. Palmer's FY09 budget was already very tight and heavily dependent upon the revenue streams as proposed from the commonwealth.

The Fiscal Year 2010 budget, too, bore the impacts of the economy. The Commonwealth forewarned municipalities that there would be drastic reductions in municipal aid in the FY10 budget. State projections of revenues continued to come up short. With major budget drivers being increases in employee health insurance and a significant increase in Palmer's assessment from the Pathfinder Regional Vocational High School, coupled with a reduction greater than \$800,000 in state aid and the confines of Proposition 2½, it was evident that the budgets for the Town, School and Operating would be hard-pressed to stay status quo, and would likely see reductions of the FY09 budget. These reductions included cutting expenditures, reducing services and the laying off personnel. The Town Council met often and made many tough decisions to be fair and equitable to all areas of the budget. The final FY10 budget approved by the Council was for \$33,535,168, and was balanced with \$159,000 of Free Cash.

The ballot initiative, to investigate the charter and the form of town government Palmer should have, went before the voters at the November Presidential Election. The Town electorate voted for and seated a Citizen Charter Commission to review, revise and make recommendations regarding current Palmer's Town Charter. The Town Council, by Charter requirement, created a parallel Charter Committee in June.

In January, the Town Council elected Michael R. Magiera Council President, Paul E. Burns Council Vice President, and David E. Whitney Council Clerk. Outgoing President Matthew Lovell resigned effective immediately and was replaced by Raymond J. Remillard in the District 3 seat. Council Clerk David Whitney resigned his At-Large Council seat in April. Karl S. Williams was seated as his successor on the Council and Councillor Barbara A. Barry was chosen as Council Clerk.

Among the Ordinances passed this past year by the Council include the Stormwater Management Ordinance for Large Development Projects, Illicit Connections to the Municipal Storm Drain System, Stormwater Management Ordinance for Small Development Projects, and the Authorizing the Borrowing of Funds to Cover the Costs of Engineering, Design, Construction and Reconstruction Services associated with the Combined Sewer Overflow Project (CSO Phase IV).

CSO Phase IV Project is a result of the Town being under an Administrative Consent Order by the US Environmental Protection Agency to reduce the amount of rainfall into the Wastewater Treatment Plant and correct the outfall of sanitary sewage into the storm drainage system, and thus our area rivers, by Fall 2012. The project, estimated to cost \$7.2 million dollars, is eligible for low interest loans. Due to the project moving forward at this time, we anticipate Federal funds through principle forgiveness to help reduce the cost to the users and taxpayers of Palmer.

The topic of a possible casino coming to town garnered much media attention in the past year. Governor Patrick put forward a bill for consideration by the legislature to expand legalization of gaming within the Commonwealth; which would include resort-style casinos. Despite the bill failing to garner approval in the State House, a developer was successful in acquiring a long-term lease on a parcel owned by Northeast Realty within the Town of Palmer near the Massachusetts Turnpike interchange. In April, the Council received the report from the Palmer Citizens Casino Impact Study Committee, which investigated the potential impacts a casino would have on our community and recommended the creation of a negotiating committee to work on a potential Host

Community Agreement. A change in the leadership of the Massachusetts House of Representatives has prompted much discussion that there may be favorable consideration of casino legislation sometime in the next fiscal year.

The past year, town staff and I have taken great strides to restore public faith in the Town Council-Town Manager form of government. We have worked with many citizens to resolve their issues and effort to create a collaborative atmosphere. Stabilization and progress has been made in the Treasurer/Collectors Office through the hiring of Melissa Zawadzki as head of that department. I feel that we are moving in a positive direction in spite of the economy and I look forward continuing to serve the Town Council and the citizens of Palmer.

Lastly, but most importantly, it is with greatest gratitude that I thank Patricia Kennedy for her leadership and efforts on behalf of the Town of Palmer during her tenure as the Interim Town Manager; and for her valuable assistance to the citizens of Palmer, town staff, and myself during this past fiscal year. On behalf of the Citizens of Palmer, I offer her our heartfelt thanks and appreciation.

Matthew Streeter, Town Manager

TOWN CLERK

Deaths 2008

January

2	Ray W. Mason	35
5	Cecelia K. Horrigan	77
5	Felix V. Pobieglo	81
7	Alfred L. LaBare, Jr.	52
7	Michael A. Wasko	63
9	Lillian M. Burgiel	79
10	Dorothy B. Moores	81
11	Rena Abbate	94
11	Mary W. Sawicki	85
11	Richard Serafini	59
13	Emily R. Dell'Olio	59
21	Leona A. Santos	77
22	Gloria M. Long	70
23	Mary Zebrowski	75
30	Rita A. Galica	84
31	Albert J. Beaudry	74
31	Daniel R. Crafts	61

February

2	M.Jeanne Hamilton	78
3	Helen A. Aniskiewicz	76
3	John J. Jaworek	76
4	Thomas R. Scrivner	78

4	Anna M. Kielbasa	97
4	Beatrice Lagasse	91
6	Walter Fruechtenicht	45
7	Martina S. Avis	66
10	Osceola J. Towery	87
10	Julia B. Pietryka	95
11	Earle A. Anderson	81
12	Jane H. Godin	86
14	Robert A. Clough	61
14	Stephen J. Sawicki	80
14	Edward J. Wrubel	84
15	Mildred H. Siok	83
17	Wanda J. Kurtycz	87
17	Nelson R. Fisk, Sr.	70
21	Exillia M. Michaud	86
22	Emily T. Sinkoski	85
25	Eleanor M. Roach	88
26	Bertha V. Couture	93
28	Olga M. Freeman	91
28	Helen M. Warakowski	89

March

5	Richard J. MacDonald, Jr.	19
8	Mary G. Blair	86
8	Christy R. Theodos	74
8	Shannon M. Baez	26
13	Joseph A. Keeney	46
14	Norman R. Breton	63
15	Maureen T. Innarelli	72
15	Joseph P. Golas	87
18	Robert W. Beal	68
19	John Courchesne	62
21	Eugene Slosek	69
20	Arthur L. Beaulieu	66
24	Howard R. Griswold	86
25	Frederick H. Smith	84
28	Lucille A. Brothers	73
29	Helen T. Nietupski	90
30	Jennie H. Still	90
31	Nancy A. Jarosz	65

April

1	John A. Skowronek	83
2	Mary C. Piechota	96
3	Jennie Zajac	79
8	Patricia H. Handzel	70
12	Edna V. Monteiro	86
14	Rudolph Sekula	82
16	Bernice I. Lagrant	84

21	Joseph Skowron	81
22	Lois M. Taylor	72
24	Leroy A. Shorette, Jr.	74
24	Robert T. Welch	87
29	Mary R. Sugrue	97
30	William D. Ferry	83

May

1	Tersiglia Pelloso	81
2	Felicia C. Jellen	86
2	Fred D. Blair	54
3	Anthony Zietkowski	80
5	Shizuko Woyan	83
7	Eugene R. Graveline	84
7	Thomas J. Collins	70
9	Jacquelyn Eliason	73
12	Olga A. Gullberg	94
13	Andre A. Corbin, Jr.	79
14	Henrietta H. Barrett	87
15	Yvonne L. Gajewski	83
15	Aldor E. Matthieu	79
15	David J. Mann	29
20	Mary B. Pappas	89
21	Stanley J. Bigda	86
22	Louis T. Rock, Jr.	76
24	Elizabeth C. Royce	74
24	Rory J. Roderigues	37
29	Marilyn Astin	77
29	Rita D. Haluch	91

June

2	John E. Devanski, Sr.	68
5	Janina H. Cyran	83
8	Helen F. Krawczyk	99
10	Robert C. Gray	80
13	John R. Tetreault	48
13	Marie V. Golas	97
13	Richard E. Puduski	39
14	Mary B. Salamon	91
15	Randy M. Richards	52
19	Dorothy F. Graves	93
20	Althea I. Gagne	79
21	Thomas M. Dranka	61
24	Elizabeth F. Brady	83

July

3	Veronica Ferry	81
4	David G. Bassett	39
11	Lucy E. Bradway	97

10	Donald J. Cantin	72
10	Monica T. Romanik	87
12	Sarah L. Stone	71
17	Delphine Sara Dernovich	96
17	Kevin P. Flanagan	66
25	Adrien D. Duby	84
27	Egmont F. Lichwala	89
31	Robert A. Vander Vliet	68

August

1	Emily J. Farrell	95
1	Myron J. Sikorski	78
3	Julia T. Richardson	95
3	Margaret A. Santaniello	61
9	Helen R. Bacon	84
10	Aurilla J. Rogers	77
16	Arnold Zogry	72
17	Melissa A. Kindberg	18
22	Sophie A. Schultz	86
30	David W. Kenyon	53

September

6	Robert Benedetti	80
9	Gladys I. North	78
10	Celestina S. Fonte	87
16	Bertrand L. Dupuis	100
16	Roger L. Trombly	78
18	Hugh F. Burns, Jr.	69
18	Todd A. Gorham	40
19	Kathleen M. Summers	46
25	Candida Martins	79
26	Daniel J. McCarthy	36
29	Paul Denner	79
30	Agnes A. Garrant	81

October

1	Cynthia E. Garvey	49
6	Marcella A. Moran	91
11	L. Patricia Paugh	76
15	Julia F. Machnik	86
18	Charles D. Campbell	51
20	Linda A. Faul Randeltt	58
20	Lori Ann Skinner	53
23	Ruth J. Wenninger	79
25	Theresa E. Cleary	81
28	Irene M. Beynor	90
28	Robert J. Coupal	56
29	Kathleen L. Hood	66

November

5	Helen F. Chrobak	84
5	Felicia Papuga	97
8	Jaydis Jordan Caplette-Wright	1 day
8	Angelo J. Saccamando	59
9	Genevieve R. Kutt	93
15	Ernestine L. Wilson	73
13	Theresa M. Francis	44
21	Martha A. Valego	61
22	Constance L. Aldrich	79
24	Amelia J. Roberts	92
25	Kenneth P. Bressette	59
29	John J. Mullen, Jr.	61
29	Edna K. Wosik	97
30	Pedro J. Fernandez	73

December

7	Elaine L. Holland	73
7	Leo P. Graveline	84
7	William J. Mullen	89
9	Clarence J. Pikul	88
9	Mildred Coburn	71
12	Claire A. Magada	80
14	Judith E. Petley	52
13	Ralph E. Aiken	54
17	Robert R. Couture	79
18	Robert E. Rourke	82
20	Marguerite A. Callahan	79
20	Agnes K. Varjabedian	88
21	Michael I. LaFortune	57
23	Theresa J. Greene	56
24	William Jaciow	95
25	Kathleen M. Madden	88
25	Daniel R. Chicoine	47
25	Christine Simoneau	48
28	Mary E. Lebel	51
28	George E. Parks, Sr.	76
30	Rosalina Mario	86
30	Francis J. Romanski	83

2009

January

6	Mary R. Peters	88
7	Charles L. Hood, Jr.	65
9	David W. Gilman	63
13	Shirley F. Pontbriand	74
14	Grace A. Jarrett	67
14	Eugene L. Cancelliere	59

15	Edward S. Godek	75
15	Antoinette Santaniello	77
18	MaryAnn Rigali	56
18	Henry J. Powis, Jr.	84
19	Christine Fischer	69
19	Grace A. Sasur	86
20	Jane E. Golas	83
20	Walter P. Smola	92
20	Herbert J. Randall	93
22	Michael J. Sinowski	89
27	Agnes N. Kurtyka	89
27	Sophie C. Rudnick	94

February

2	Eileen Miccoly	85
3	Mark A. MacDonald	59
5	Marie R. Fitzgerald	86
9	Mary G. Bouthillier	86
13	Janis A. Skalbite	69
16	Mary M. Reim	85
18	Matario J. Valley	90
23	John R. Skowyra	44
25	Boleslaw Pieniak	88
28	Jozef Burkacki	77

March

1	Daniel V. Fogarty III	59
3	George Spelko	84
5	Gilbert D. Rosa	52
6	Emily A. Griswold	85
8	Joseph T. Miccoly	86
10	Howard J. Dart	55
15	Sophie T. Fernandes	73
21	Ella M. Lupien	84
22	Regina R. Flaherty	96
26	Helen O. Joyal	90
30	Edward T. Sasur	94
30	Irene C. Skomro	78

April

2	Mary R. Scovera	96
2	Estanislao Niedziela	68
4	Francis E. Finney	95
4	John T. Spelko	88
4	Jane T. Welch	86
5	David A. Cummings	66
9	Joann F. Boudreau	74
13	Mark C. Golas	46

15	Theodore A. Koziol	85
16	Florence A. North	91
19	Elizabeth Carey	71
19	Walter H. Fleming	93
21	Sandra J. Doyle	72
24	Jane A. Nutter	46
24	Pearl L. Clark	76
26	Wayne W. Cook	33

May

2	Vera T. Jasak	84
7	John H. Kummerfeldt	78
10	Peter T. Sarant	89
12	Doris V. Gatto	92
12	Herschel R. Jackson	83
13	Monica M. Siemienkiewicz	88
14	Edward S. Dragon	92
27	Mabel E. Brodeur	89
28	Paul Sylvernuse Veale, Jr.	57

June

3	Daniel B. Lee	77
9	Debora Ann Murphy-Swanson	55
12	Sharlene Medeiros	55
17	Erwin R. Bacon	86
19	Thomas K. Brothers	49
24	Frank J. Labuz	85
26	Eleanor P. Boudreau	82
26	Jere T. Denning	58
28	Joan M. Edberg	74
29	Mildred M. Garson	82
30	Iona M. Murray	68

2008

Marriages

July

12	Christopher J. Hess	Palmer	Jessie L. Alt	Palmer
13	William J. Powers	Palmer	Nancy C. Powers	Palmer
19	Scott C. Smola	Palmer	Allisha M. Venne	Palmer
19	Dawid R. Dawidowicz	Gilbertville	Agnes Kowalik	Gilbertville
19	Eric Lavalley	Palmer	Jessie L. Horton	Palmer
26	Michael t. Howlett	Ware	Lynne M. Taylor	Ware

August

2	Allen R. Silva	Palmer	Michele J. Czajka	Palmer
8	Steven J. Rusiecki	Palmer	Martha C. Bellerose	Palmer
16	Michelle A. Boutin	Belchertown	Jessica L. Graveline	Belchertown

22	Christopher M. Colby	Palmer	Shauna A. Moore	Palmer
24	Eric A. Raymond	Palmer	Shorey E. Dow	Palmer

September

6	Aaron S. McKee	Palmer	Kaitlin M. McDaniel	Palmer
7	Daniel P. Ciejska	Palmer	Kirsten R. Arbour	Monson
12	George Glatz, Jr.	Monson	Kimberly T. Delisle	Monson
13	Jose R. Cardenales	Palmer	Heather L. Benge	Palmer
19	Timothy F. Haley II	Palmer	Melissa L. Powis	Palmer
20	David M. Piechota	Palmer	Ana Lisa Pellegrino	Palmer
20	Randall A. Rivest	Palmer	Christie L. Labonte	Palmer
20	James J. Loughery, Jr.	Palmer	Angela D. Houghton	Palmer
29	Gerald T. Haley, Jr.	Palmer	Sandra J. Martin-Harrington	Palmer

October

4	Ernest D. Gasbarino	Palmer	Jessica L. Doane	Palmer
4	Joseph M. Matney	Monson	Emily A. Tytula	Monson
12	Matthew J. Lovell	Palmer	Lisa M. Herrick	Palmer
14	Kenneth W. Soffen	Palmer	Natalie A. Lavin	Palmer

November

1	Jared E. Jamieson	Ware	Jacqueline A. Renaud	Ware
9	Christopher A. Ulrich	Ware	Courtney E. Smith	Ware
22	David A. Raymond, Jr.	W. Warren	Michelle R. Sumwalt	W. Warren

December

18	Corrin L. Long	Palmer	Amy B. Schulze	Palmer
28	Andrew J. Mickna	Palmer	Alicia A. Grandfield	Palmer

2009

January

16	John W. Lizak, Jr.	Ware	Beverly A. Morin	Palmer
23	Shawn M. Drawec	Palmer	Sheila M. Gula	Palmer

February

4	Shawn J. Emery	Warren	Michelle L. Diede	Warren
14	John W. Tytula	Monson	Kathleen A. Biastoff	Monson

March

15	Michael E. Mannix	Palmer	Megan G. Tatum	Palmer
16	Michael C. Turner	Palmer	Liliana Hernandez	Palmer
30	Adam J. McLarey	Palmer	Meaghan E. Jones	Palmer

April

1	Richard A. Mundel	Palmer	Martha L. Sylvia	Palmer
24	Richard A. Hammer	Maryland	Margaret M. McAdam	Palmer

May

2	Robert M. Turner	Palmer	Jacqueline M. Rheume	Palmer
13	Laquan T. Crossley	Gardner	Michele P. Meade	Palmer
16	Michael P. Young	Palmer	Theresa L. Woods	Palmer
16	Russell Bukowski	Palmer	Joanna M. Dube	Granby
16	Leo P. Loranger, Jr.	Palmer	Anne M. Reams	Palmer
21	Yvonne M. Gamache	Brimfield	Deborah A. Baird	Brimfield
23	David F. Reed	Palmer	Jennifer L. Urekew	Palmer
24	Keith A. Richard	Watertown,NY	Kirsten L. Rose	Palmer

June

6	Steven M. Durocher	Palmer	Kelli M. Lafreniere	Palmer
13	Robert J. LaRose	Palmer	Donna Haluch	Palmer
13	Ryan M. Allard	Palmer	Karye L. Webb	Palmer
14	David M. Ross	W.Lebanon,NH	Christine R. Claudino	Wlebanon,NH
20	Joshua P. Marlow	Palmer	Mary B. Mason	Palmer
25	Brian S. Auger	Palmer	Kristina L. Kovitch	Palmer
26	Timothy E. Miller	Palmer	Cynthia M. Hurley	Palmer
27	Christian T. Leissner,Jr.	Palmer	Rebecca L. Reynolds	Palmer
27	Pamela A. Herbert	Palmer	Jeremy J. Patenaude	Palmer
27	Matthew D. Cadieux	Palmer	Deidre L. Messier	Palmer
27	James M. Hurley	Palmer	Judith M. Chausse	Millbury
28	Dennis E. Ladue	Palmer	Amy L. Raymond	Palmer

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH
PALMER WARRANT FOR STATE ELECTION**

SS.

To either of the Constables of the TOWN of PALMER

GREETING:

In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said town who are qualified to vote in the State Election to vote at several polling locations in PALMER, designated by the Council:

Precinct 1 at SS Peter & Paul Parish Center,2267 Main St.; Precinct 2 & 3 at the Converse Middle School,24 Converse St.;and Precinct 4 at SS Peter & Paul Parish Center,2267 Main St., on **TUESDAY, THE FOURTH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2008**, from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. for the following purpose:

To cast their votes in the State Election for the candidates for the following offices:

ELECTORS OF PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT STATEWIDE
SENATOR IN CONGRESS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH
REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
COUNCILLOR SEVENTH COUNCILLOR DISTRICT
SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT.
WORCESTER, HAMPDEN, FRANKLIN & HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT

QUESTION 1: LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 6, 2008?

SUMMARY

This proposed law would reduce the state personal income tax rate to 2.65% for all categories of taxable income for the tax year beginning on or after January 1, 2009, and would eliminate the tax for all tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2010.

The personal income tax applies to income received or gain realized by individuals and married couples, by estates of deceased persons, by certain trustees and other fiduciaries, by persons who are partners in and receive income from partnerships, by corporate trusts, and by persons who receive income as shareholders of "S corporations" as defined under federal tax law. The proposed law would not affect the tax due on income or gain realized in a tax year beginning before January 1, 2009.

The proposed law states that if any of its parts were declared invalid, the other parts would stay in effect.

A YES VOTE would reduce the state personal income tax rate to 2.65% for the tax year beginning on January 1, 2009, and would eliminate the tax for all tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2010.

A NO VOTE would make no change in state income tax laws.

QUESTION 2: LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 6, 2008?

SUMMARY

This proposed law would replace the criminal penalties for possession of one ounce or less of marijuana with a new system of civil penalties, to be enforced by issuing citations, and would exclude information regarding this civil offense from the state's criminal record information system. Offenders age 18 or older would be subject to forfeiture of the marijuana plus a civil penalty of \$100. Offenders under the age of 18 would be subject to the same forfeiture and, if they complete a drug awareness program within one year of the offense, the same \$100 penalty.

Offenders under 18 and their parents or legal guardian would be notified of the offense and the option for the offender to complete a drug awareness program developed by the state Department of Youth Services. Such programs would include ten hours of community service and at least four hours of instruction or group discussion concerning the use and abuse of marijuana and other drugs and emphasizing early detection and prevention of substance abuse.

The penalty for offenders under 18 who fail to complete such a program within one year could be increased to as much as \$1,000, unless the offender showed an inability to pay, an inability to participate in such a program, or the unavailability of such a program. Such an offender's parents could also be held liable for the increased penalty. Failure by an offender under 17 to complete such a program could also be a basis for a delinquency proceeding.

The proposed law would define possession of one ounce or less of marijuana as including possession of one ounce or less of tetrahydrocannabinol ("THC"), or having metabolized products of marijuana or THC in one's body.

Under the proposed law, possessing an ounce or less of marijuana could not be grounds for state or local government entities imposing any other penalty, sanction, or disqualification, such as denying student financial aid, public housing, public financial assistance including unemployment benefits, the right to operate a motor vehicle, or the opportunity to serve as a foster or adoptive parent. The proposed law would allow local ordinances or bylaws that prohibit

The money received from the new civil penalties would go to the city or town where the offense occurred.

A NO VOTE would make no change in state criminal laws concerning possession of marijuana.

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 6, 2008?

This proposed law would prohibit any dog racing or racing meeting in Massachusetts where any form of betting or wagering on the speed or ability of dogs occurs.

Any person violating the proposed law could be required to pay a civil penalty of not less than \$20,000 to the Commission. The penalty would be used for the Commission's administrative purposes, subject to appropriation by the state Legislature. All existing parts of the chapter of the state's General Laws concerning dog and horse racing meetings would be interpreted as if they did not refer to dogs.

A YES VOTE would prohibit dog races on which betting or wagering occurs, effective January 1, 2010.

Question 4: SHALL A CHARTER

A yes vote would cause the election of commission to study charter revision.

CHARTER COMMISSION Nine Members Town

Hereof fail not and make return of this warrant with your doings thereon at the time and place of said voting.

MATTHEW LOVELL, PRESIDENT
MICHAEL R. MAGIERA, VICE PRESIDENT
DAVID E. WHITNEY, CLERK
BARBARA A. BARRY
GEORGE A. BACKUS
ROGER R. DUGUAY, JR

TOWN COUNCIL OF PALMER

**RESULTS OF STATE ELECTION
NOVEMBER 2008
TOWN OF PALMER**

PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT	Pct.1	Pct 2	Pct3	Pct4
Baldwin and Castle	1	1	3	15
Barr and Root	7	9	2	5
McCain and Palin	649	741	510	580
McKinney and Clemente	4	5	2	6
Nader and Gonzalez	33	22	22	27
Obama and Biden	833	905	711	780
SENATOR IN CONGRESS				
John F. Kerry	935	947	790	877
Jeffrey K. Beatty	480	591	363	433
Robert J. Underwood	86	94	70	79
REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS				
Richard E. Neal	1224	1274	995	1122
COUNCILLOR				
Thomas J. Foley	1105	1128	893	996
SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT				
Stephen M. Brewer	1248	1341	1021	1157
REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT				
Todd M. Smola	1250	1334	981	1176
REGISTER OF PROBATE				
Thomas P. Moriarty, Jr.	1071	1112	878	997
John T. Cesan	222	269	179	183
REGIONAL VOC. SCHOOL COMM. (BELCHERTOWN)				
Judith C. Dudek	1119	1137	893	1034
(GRANBY)				
Write Ins	268	266	197	246
(MONSON)				
Gail Roberts	972	1002	766	915
(NEW BRAINTREE)				
Duncan Stewart	923	932	706	852

(PALMER)				
David M. Droz	1072	1132	875	1017

(WARREN)				
Thomas R. Rugani	914	919	699	838

CHARTER COMMISSION

Charles F. Abbate	591	699	588	543
Paul Burns	752	765	585	696
Daniel N. Cardin	378	495	324	377
Iris L. Cardin	409	524	397	391
Raymond P. Domey	467	453	356	499
Eric A. Duda	555	512	421	532
Richard L. Fitzgerald	525	591	435	507
David L Hale	429	449	404	373
Joseph S. Mastalerz, Jr.	592	738	466	575
Michael Pajak	494	458	359	435
Robert J. Ring	368	446	290	297
David E. Whitney	673	698	524	600
Paul S. Wisnewski	535	546	435	529
Question 1				
Yes	412	430	309	336
No	1111	1236	928	1066
Question 2				
Yes	992	986	771	883
No	524	679	456	501
Question 3				
Yes	934	1045	792	840
No	562	592	424	528
Question 4				
Yes	790	839	659	743
No	534	591	419	483

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia C. Donovan, Town Clerk

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Palmer Conservation Commission consists of six volunteer members who protect the Palmer Township's natural resources under the local bylaws and the wetland protection act. Over the past 12 months the Commission has acted upon or issued the following summary:

150 Site Inspections	4 Certificates of Emergency
5 Determinations of Applicability	1 Certificates of Compliance
9 Notices of Intent	2 Forest Cutting Plan Reviews
9 Orders of Conditions	2 Enforcement Orders

The Palmer Conservation Commission has been conserving and protecting the town's wetlands and waterways for over 40 years. We express tremendous gratitude to David Johnson, the Chairman of the Conservation Commission, for his dedication and hard work. His wealth of knowledge and experience is invaluable to the town. We are *extremely* fortunate to have all the members, as they are great assets to the town.

Jane Golas, one of the founding members of the Palmer Conservation Commission, passed away in February. The commission is considering naming trails on the Midura Conservation after her. Jane worked on the first open space and land acquisition plan for the town.

Commissioners Robert Ring and Vincent Yurkunas had completed the Fundamentals for Conservation Commissions under the Massachusetts Association for Conservation Commissions.

Regretfully, the Commission had two members resign this year. Harry Johnson, who served on the commission since 1977 along with Vincent Yurkunas who served for 3 years. Due to budget cuts, the commission also lost their conservation agent, Sheryl Becker.

The Commission would like to welcome their newest member Christine Beauregard who joined in June 2009. Ms. Beauregard is a wonderful addition, as she has prior experience as a commissioner for the town of Dalton and is currently employed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Commission received the Palmer Reconnaissance Report dated June 2009, Connecticut River Valley Reconnaissance Survey under the Massachusetts Heritage Landscape Inventory Program. They are working towards having the Shaw District as a Historic district for the town.

The Commission will continue to work diligently to protect Palmer's precious natural resources. The Commission holds meetings on the first and third Tuesdays of each month; the meetings begin at 7:00pm and are open to the public.

Respectfully submitted,

David Johnson, Chairman
Donald Duffy, Vice Chairman
Robert Ring

Peter Izyk
Christine Beauregard
Matthew Trybus

PLANNING BOARD

The Palmer Planning Board, consisting of five elected members, met regularly during the twelve-month period of July 1, 2008 thru June 30, 2009. It is the Board's policy to meet as often as necessary to conduct business deemed appropriate under General Laws and the Charter of the Town of Palmer, generally the first and third Mondays of each month if meeting space is available.

The Planning Department is comprised of the following elected members and staff.

Elected Board Members

Chairman
Vice Chairman

Michael S. Marciniak
Norman Czech

Clerk

James Haley, Jr.
Thomas Skowyra
Diane France

Town Planner

Linda Leduc

During the past 12-months, the Planning Board held nineteen regular meetings and one special meeting, as well as conducted numerous site inspections and review inspections. In addition to our own meetings, we have also had meetings with other Boards and Committees and have attended seminars and workshops to help better prepare our members for the positions for which they have been elected. During these various public meetings, the Board held hearings or acted on nine Special Permits, including five Special Permits for Earth Removal, two Site Plan Approvals, and seven Subdivision Approval Not Required (SANR) plans that meet current zoning requirements and are deemed exempt from subdivision regulations. There were four special permit amendments issued and one Finding granted. The Board participated in writing and adopting a new Stormwater Ordinance, which resulted in us also updating our own Rules and Regulations to include a new fee structure for the stormwater permit.

This fiscal year has been a reflection of the downturn in the economy, as the number of permit applications has been significantly reduced. Besides the five annual earth removal applications, the board reviewed and approved of only four other special permits; two home occupations and two under the flexible setback ordinance. This lull in permitting, however, has allowed the Board to work on numerous other pertinent issues, many of which revolve around green initiatives. The Board endorsed the Regional Clean Energy Plan, and assisted in finalizing an energy audit through the Division of Energy Resources for three town-owned buildings and the three public schools. This energy audit, which assesses the town's current energy consumption, will be used as a base line for future improvement. Directly related to this initiative is the Board's endorsement of the town's pursuit of becoming a Green Community under the Green Community Act. Such a designation would allow the town to apply for stimulus funding for implementation of green energy initiatives.

The Planning Board, as a member of the Stormwater Advisory Committee, was integral in passing the town's Stormwater Ordinance and is looking into additional water protection strategies. Furthermore, the Federal Emergency Management Agency recently updated its Flood Maps, which required participation by the Board to review those changes proposed for the Town of Palmer. The Board is also in the midst of writing an ordinance to better address Green Design Standards, and has a Wind Energy Ordinance and a Right to Farm Ordinance near completion.

Throughout the year, the Board was involved with working on the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Heritage Landscape Inventory Program. A final report documents numerous historical sites in Palmer and provides recommendations for their preservation. A primary conclusion is for the town to adopt the Community Preservation Act as a necessary means of financial support for preservation.

Economic Development is of course a priority for many Palmer residents and is also a concern for the Planning Board and staff. As an economic development tool, the Town of Palmer adopted the local option of Chapter 43D, also known as the Expedited Permitting Law, and designated five parcels as Priority Development Sites. In addition, the town received a technical assistance grant to conduct two extensive infrastructure studies. The

Water and Transportation studies were finalized in the fall of 2008 and are available to both the town and potential developers as important development tools.

The Energy Thorndike Mill complex was chosen to be a design site for a Re-use Ideas competition sponsored by the Valley Development Council and Western Massachusetts American Institute of Architects. The international competition, to commence in September 2009, will expose the Palmer site to conceptual designs concentrating on Smart Growth Design principles and will conclude with a People's Choice Award, with the winning design to be chosen mid-2010.

During fiscal 2010, the Board will continue in its pursuit of the town's "Green Community" designation and hopes to submit a grant application to the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to fund the design phase of a pedestrian trail along the Ware River connecting Thorndike to Three Rivers. The Board also plans to reevaluate its Subdivision Regulations as they were last updated in 1993. Some of the technical sections must be updated to reflect current construction methods and more innovative design techniques. Commitment tasks, as required by the Commonwealth Capital application, will also receive priority and include adopting the Wind Energy Ordinance, a Right to Farm Ordinance, and the Community Preservation Act.

In closing, the Planning Board would like to thank the citizens of Palmer, elected officials, town boards and the Planning Department staff for assisting us in our planning endeavors.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael S. Marciniak, Chairman

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

	FY09
New Single Family Dwellings	3
New Two Family Dwellings	1
New Commercial	1
New Condominiums	0
Additions to Residential Buildings	7
Additions to Commercial Buildings	6
Renovations to Residential Buildings	71
Renovations to Commercial Buildings	11
Replace Mobile Home	1
Barns	2
Carports	2
Decks	60
Demolitions	28
Garages	9
Gazebo	0
Pools Above Ground	13
Pools In Ground	5
Roofing, Siding & Window Permits	283
Sheds	37
Signs	16
Wood Burning Stove Permits	78

Occupancy Permits	59
Total	693
Other Inspections	727
Electrical Permits	260
Plumbing Permits	100
Gas Permits	71
Total	1158
Revenues	FY09
Building Department	\$46,970

SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

I hereby submit the report for the Department of Weights & Measures. So far this year, a total of 193 measuring and weighing devices were tested and sealed. Fees charged for these tests totaled \$3,772.70. A total of \$1,660.00 was turned in to the Treasurer, leaving an uncollected balance of \$1,112.70. A total of 3 complaints have been received so far this year. They were followed up on and corrected.

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph Serrato,
Sealer of Weights and Measures

BOARD OF HEALTH

Percolation Test and Septic Designs

The Board of Health witnessed, collected fees and issued permits for eleven (11) Percolation Tests and eleven (11) Septic Designs that were reviewed and approved by the Board during the year 2008-2009.

Housing and Food Inspections and Investigations

The Board of Health, for the health and safety of the occupants, made thirty-one Housing Inspections. Violations were corrected to meet the standards of the State Sanitary Code. Over two hundred Inspections and Investigations were made by the Board of Health to comply with Regulations and Laws pertaining to Public Health.

Flu Vaccine Clinics

A total of 500 doses of Influenza vaccine were administered to various segments of the citizenry of the town of Palmer and its 3 villages. Immunization clinics were held at the Converse Middle School, Palmer High School, Palmer Senior Center, Palmer Green Estates, St. Peter and Paul Parish Hall and at the Wing Memorial Hospital. This total included homebound citizens in private homes and senior living facilities in town. It also included Emergency Service Personnel from the ambulance, fire and police services.

Tobacco Control Program Grant

The Governor of Massachusetts vetoed the Tobacco Control Program Grant.

Hampden County Health Coalition

The Health Coalition has given funds to the town of Palmer Board of Health and the money was allocated for training for emergency preparedness, refrigerator for emergencies and numerous office supplies that are needed.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul E. Benard, Chairperson
John Lukaskiewicz
Jayne Heede

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

The Palmer Community Development Department is located in the Town Administration Building at 4417 Main Street Palmer. The office is open Monday – Friday from 9:00am to 4:30pm.

The Community Development Department was established in 1991 for the purpose of administering a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for the Town of Palmer. Over the years the department has expanded its services by becoming a Local Rehabilitation Agency for the Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency, and by applying for and receiving grants from other agencies/programs.

Community Development Block Grant Program

The Community Development Block Grant Program is funded under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 as amended. The primary objective of the statute is “... *to develop viable, urban communities by providing decent housing and suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities principally for low – moderate income persons.*”

The Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development encourages: programs which develop and preserve affordable housing; planning toward both resource protection and sustainable economic activity; downtown revitalization integral to community development; and community-based planning that assesses needs and identifies strategies for addressing those needs. Projects eligible for funding under the Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant Program include: planning; housing rehabilitation and creation of affordable housing; economic development projects which create and/or retain jobs; efforts directed toward rehabilitation and stabilization of existing neighborhoods, commercial areas and downtowns; infrastructure; construction and/or rehabilitation of community facilities; and public social services.

The Palmer Community Development Department relies entirely on grant dollars to finance its projects and operate its office. The Town of Palmer provides space, heat and electricity.

During FY09 the Community Development Department administered the following grants:

✓ FFY06 Community Development Block Grant

Total expenditures in FY09: \$10,945.62 expended for Housing Rehabilitation Administration, \$79,540.66 expended for Housing Rehabilitation Deferred

Payment Loans, \$10,063.37 expended for Public Facility/Infrastructure Program Administration, \$14,600 for architectural services for the design of the Memorial Hall rehabilitation project, \$1,304.66 for Public Service Program Administration, \$31,730.60 for Public Services, and \$15,278.26 for General Program Administration.

On July 27, 2006 the Town of Palmer was awarded \$923,855 from the Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant Program. These funds were awarded to finance: \$24,477 of Housing Rehabilitation Administration; \$59,598 to be supplemented with \$89,882 in program income funds to finance eight (8) Housing Rehabilitation Deferred Payment Loans; \$44,236 of Public Facility/Infrastructure Program Administration; \$214,674 to be supplemented with \$8,520 in in-kind services to reclaim and repave 600' of Chestnut Street, to grade-gravel-pave 290' of Arch Street, to reconstruct 900' of sidewalk parallel to Chestnut Street including ADA features; \$227,934 to be supplemented with \$9,000 of in kind services and \$15,000 from the Palmer Water District for the replacement of 890' of water main, \$142,062 to be supplemented with \$856 of in kind services for the replacement of 1,125' of sanitary sewer main, the Town of Palmer committed \$127,376 in program income funds to replace 720' of storm drain, \$73,000 for architectural services relative to the rehabilitation of Memorial Hall, \$10,765 for Public Service program administration, \$40,000 to provide services to 75 senior citizens, and \$87,109 for General Program Administration.

As of June 30, 2009 the Palmer Community Development Department has expended \$39,477.00 for Housing Rehabilitation Administration, \$200,793.64 (includes \$86,402.00 in program income funds) to rehabilitate 10 living units occupied by 26 low to moderate income residents, \$23,009.38 for Public Facilities Administration, \$204,120.58 for upgrades to the Streets and Sidewalks servicing Chestnut and Arch Streets, including engineering and construction oversight, \$138,615.13 for the replacement of water mains and hydrants servicing Chestnut and Arch Streets including engineering and construction oversight, \$93,954.26 for the replacement of the sanitary sewer servicing Chestnut and Arch Streets including engineering and construction oversight, \$108,978.00 for the replacement of the storm drainage system servicing Chestnut and Arch Streets, including engineering and construction oversight, \$84,980.00 (includes \$11,980.00 in program income funds) for architectural services to design the rehabilitation of Memorial Hall, \$4,501.22 for Public Service Program Administration, \$78,029.86 (includes \$38,029.86 in program income funds) to finance the provision of services to low and moderate income senior citizens, and \$57,447.12 for General Program Administration.

✓ FFY07 Community Development Block Grant Program

Total expenditures in FY09: \$33,302.53 expended for Housing Rehabilitation Administration, \$179,364.32 (includes \$41,216.30 in Program Income Funds) expended for Housing Rehabilitation Deferred Payment Loans, \$2,284.93 expended for Public Facility/Infrastructure Program Administration, \$126,985.71 expended for Streets and Sidewalks servicing Fox Street, \$59,042.20 expended for water main replacement servicing Fox Streets, \$19,357.30 for sanitary sewer replacement servicing Fox Streets, \$46,497.35 expended for storm drain replacement servicing Fox Streets, \$2,996.41 for Public Service Program

Administration, \$28,733.48 for Public Services, and \$31,614.83 for General Program Administration.

On July 11, 2007 the Town of Palmer was awarded \$815,679 from the Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant Program. These funds were awarded to finance: \$29,487 of Housing Rehabilitation Administration; \$25,000 to be supplemented with \$40,000 in program income funds to finance three (3) Housing Rehabilitation Deferred Payment Loans; \$41,935 of Public Facility/Infrastructure Program Administration; \$107,864 to be supplemented with \$39,988 in in-kind services and a cash contribution to reclaim and repave 1,800 square yards of Fox Street, to reconstruct 725' of sidewalk parallel to Fox Street including ADA features; \$186,203 to be supplemented with \$41,000 of in kind services and a cash contribution for the replacement of 610' of water main servicing Fox Street, \$127,198 to be supplemented with \$36,200 of in kind services and a cash contribution for the replacement of 800' of sanitary sewer main servicing Fox street, \$142,805 to be supplemented with \$2,342 of in kind services for the replacement of 635' storm drain servicing Fox Street, \$9,727 for Public Service program administration, \$50,000 to provide financial literacy education to 30 low to moderate income Palmer Residents and to create a Domestic Violence Task Force to be supplemented with \$40,378 of in-kind services, and \$95,460 for General Program Administration.

As of June 30, 2009 the Palmer Community Development Department has expended \$33,302.53 for Housing Rehabilitation Administration, \$178,148.02 (includes \$40,000.00 in Program Income Funds) expended for Housing Rehabilitation Deferred Payment Loans, \$7,932.38 for Public Facilities Administration, \$176,197.24 (includes \$33,000 from the Department of Public Works) for upgrades to the Streets and Sidewalks servicing Fox Street, including engineering and construction oversight, \$113,366.29 (includes \$33,000 from the Palmer Water District) for the replacement of water mains and hydrants servicing Fox Street including engineering and construction oversight, \$74,836.88 (includes \$33,000 from the Waste Water Treatment Department) for the replacement of the sanitary sewer servicing Fox Street including engineering and construction oversight, \$56,923.72 for the replacement of the storm drainage system servicing Fox Street, including engineering and construction oversight, \$4,678.89 for Public Service Program Administration, \$18,891.18 for the Domestic Violence Task Force, \$28,400.00 for Financial Literacy Education, and \$43,223.99 for General Program Administration.

FFY08 Community Development Block Grant Program

Total expenditures in FY09: \$13,966.74 expended to administer the Rehabilitation of Memorial Hall Project; \$8.07 for Public Service Program Administration, \$5,043.92 for Public Services, and \$6,770.64 for General Program Administration.

On September 29, 2008 the Town of Palmer was awarded \$836,585 from the Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant Program. These funds were awarded to finance: \$44,294 of Public Facility Program Administration; \$733,585 to rehabilitate Memorial Hall; and \$58,706 for General Administration. On January 27, 2009 the Town of Palmer was awarded \$74,706 in additional

funding from the Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant Program. These funds were awarded to finance: \$4,706 in Public Service Administration and \$70,000 for Public Services.

As of June 30, 2009 the Palmer Community Development Department has expended \$13,966.74 to administer the Rehabilitation of Memorial Hall Project; \$8.07 to administer the Social Service Projects; and \$5,043.92 for Domestic Violence and Senior Volunteer Services.

Economic Development Fund Total expenditures in FY09: \$36,267.70 for Community Economic Development Administration; \$26,480.00 for For Profit Loans; \$56,000.00 for Micro enterprise loans; \$11,628.85 for Social Service program administration; \$9,100 for social service activities; and \$18,869.33 for General Administration.

On March 19, 2008 the Town of Palmer acting as the Lead Community on behalf of Belchertown, Brimfield, Brookfield, East Brookfield, Hardwick, Holland, Monson, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Spencer, Wales, Ware, Warren, and West Brookfield was awarded \$500,000 from the Massachusetts Economic Development Fund Program to finance \$69,598 for Community Economic Development Administration, \$160,000 for For Profit Loans to create and/or retain 16 jobs in the region, \$156,000 for Micro enterprise loans to create/retain 6 jobs in the region, \$10,989 for Public Service Program Administration, \$35,000 for 110 tuition waivers for computer training and business planning training, and \$68,413 for General Program Administration. The proposed program will be managed by the Quaboag Valley Business Assistance Corporation (QVBAC), a private non-profit corporation, whose activities are administered by the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation (QVDCD).

As of June 30, 2009 the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation has expended: \$36,267.70 for Community Economic Development Administration; \$26,480.00 for For Profit Loans; \$56,000.00 for Micro enterprise loans; \$11,628.85 for Social Service program administration; \$9,100 for social service activities; and \$18,869.33 for General Administration.

MassHousing Get the Lead Out Program

Through a partnership with Departments of Public Health and Housing and Community Development, MassHousing offers an affordable way to remove hazardous lead paint from your home. The Palmer Community Development Department serves as a local rehabilitation agency assisting homeowners in getting living units inspected, determining the scope of work to be performed, getting quotes for the work to be done, applying for loans, inspecting the work that was performed and paying the contractors.

MassHousing First Time Homebuyer Purchase and Rehabilitation Program

The Palmer Community Development Department is a Local Rehabilitation Agency for the MassHousing Purchase and Rehabilitation Program.

MassHousing Purchase and Rehab loans help borrowers cover both the cost of purchasing a home in need of repairs, as well as the expense of rehabilitating that

property. The maximum loan amount for a Purchase and Rehab mortgage is 97% of the purchase price plus rehabilitation costs or the estimated value of the home after rehabilitation (whichever is less). A 3% downpayment is required. To qualify for a Purchase and Rehab mortgage, you must: Be a first-time home buyer, Have a signed Purchase and Sales Agreement for a 1- to 4-family home, Be creditworthy, Have housing debt of less than 33% of your income and total monthly debt of less than 41% of your income. The minimum rehabilitation amount for all property types is \$7,500. Rehabilitation costs include the cost of repairs, as well as such expenses as inspection fees, title update fees, and a required contingency reserve equal to 10% of the total rehabilitation cost. The lender will collect a quarter-point (0.25%) to cover loan administration. A mortgage payment reserve not to exceed four mortgage payments may be included in the cost of rehabilitation if the property will not be occupied during rehabilitation. The lender may charge fees as high as \$900 based on the cost of rehabilitation. Licensed contractors must complete all rehabilitation work. At the time of loan closing, the borrower will be responsible for the full mortgage payment on the total principal amount.

USDA Rural Development Housing Preservation Grant

The objective of the Housing Preservation Grant program is to repair or rehabilitate individual housing, rental properties, or co-ops owned and/or occupied by very low- and low-income rural persons. Grantees will provide eligible homeowners, owners of rental properties, and owners of co-ops with financial assistance through loans, grants, interest reduction payments or other comparable financial assistance for necessary repairs and rehabilitation

During FY09 the Palmer Community Development Department administered a grant in the amount of \$33,778.45 from the USDA/Rural Development Housing Preservation Grant Program to finance \$28,12.45 in Housing Rehabilitation Deferred Payment Loans and \$5,066.00 to administer the program.

On May 5, 2009 the Town of Palmer was awarded \$63,759.85 from the USDA/Rural Development Housing Preservation Grant Program to finance \$54,196.85 Housing Rehabilitation Deferred Payment Loans and \$9,563 to administer the program.

Respectfully submitted by:
Alice Davey, Community Development Director

COUNCIL ON AGING

The mission of the Palmer Council on Aging/Senior Center is to identify the total needs of the senior population, to promote and encourage new and existing activities, to provide services and education to enhance the quality of life for elders and to assist elders to age with dignity and independence.

Senior Center staff is obliged to create an atmosphere that acknowledges the value of human life, affirms the dignity and self-worth of the older adult participant, and maintains a climate of respect, trust and support. Within this atmosphere, the staff creates opportunities for older adults to apply their wisdom, experience and insight and to exercise their skills.

Council on Aging Board Members

Ernie Charland, Chairperson
Genevieve Bates, 1st Vice Chair
Mary Hubert, 2nd Vice Chair
Debbie Strauss, Secretary
Ed Bradlenski
Alice J. Smith

Linda Lamay
Betty Koss
Gloria Brouillette
Pearl Coyer
Audrey Julian

The Council on Aging/Senior Center had 12,285 visitors this past year. The Council on Aging provided a broad range of services to Palmer's 60+ population during the year July 1, 2008 thru June 30, 2009. Of the 2,361 Senior Citizen's of Palmer, approximately 1,300 unduplicated elders received a direct service from the Council on Aging. Twelve issues of the Senior Center newsletters were printed and a total of 9,600 newsletters were distributed.

To care for the physical needs of our 60+ population, Annual Cholesterol, Glucose and Blood Pressure screenings in conjunction with Wing Hospital, Weekly Health screenings, Hearing Screenings, Eye Care, Foot Care, Exercise programs, Line Dancing & Nutrition Classes were provided at the Palmer Senior Center. 6,127 duplicated individuals took advantage of these programs. Twenty nine speakers engaged to discuss health related issues and medical equipment was available at the Palmer Senior Center to be loaned at no charge as needed. One hundred and thirteen individuals took advantage of this program. Wing Memorial Hospital provided the senior center with a nurse for 6 hours a week. She provided 379 duplicated seniors with blood pressure checks, glucose screenings, home visits and medication consultations. The Arthritis Foundation certified instructor held exercise class one day a week.

A congregate meal program was held at the Palmer Senior Center, sponsored through Greater Springfield Senior Services, Inc. and the Council on Aging providing 3,658 meals. The Council on Aging continues to provide supportive services to homebound elders. In Home Meals provided 84 frail elders with a hot meal five days a week, totaling 13,310 meals.

1,320 Brown Bags were distributed to 120 seniors as part of the Western MA Food Bank Program for Seniors. Fifteen seniors received fresh vegetables from the Farmshare Program, part of the Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture at no cost. They received \$10.00 per week worth of fresh vegetables for 10 weeks provided by Sully's Farm of Belchertown.

In and Out of Town Van Transportation: 174 unduplicated passengers, including 45 passengers under 30 utilized this service. 4,856 trips were taken totaling 17,595 miles. Total cost to operate this program was \$4,493.00 for oil, tires, repairs and extra driver. Wages were paid through our Transportation Gift Account from donations. \$4,405.00 was contributed to this program through rider donations.

Individuals were helped through the Free AARP Income Tax Program. Tax Assistance, Transportation, Information and Referrals and Congregate Meals were also available to those under age 60 who are disabled. We held a celebration for every holiday and our Annual Veteran's Day Luncheon & Annual 90+ Birthday Party and Annual 4th of July Cookout at Pulaski Park. 11,712 signatures were acquired from the Senior Center daily

registration sheets. 10,694 phone calls were taken and 1,609 calls were from those under age 60. There were 88 deaths of persons over the age of 60.

GRANT FUNDING

\$15,347.00 in Formula Grant money was awarded to the Palmer Council on Aging from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs in Boston for an Outreach Service Coordinator, Activities Coordinator & Volunteer Coordinator. An Outreach Service Coordinator accesses and assesses the 60+ population to all Federal, State and County Programs which they may be entitled. There were a total of 813 visits made to seniors in home or at the senior center. There were a total of 705 unduplicated units of service provided by the Outreach Service Coordinator. There were a total of 2,147 units of service provided to seniors. The Volunteer Coordinator supervised sixty-five volunteers who continued to assist in various programs and activities and home assistance and transportation to doctors and grocery shopping. A total of 3,984 volunteer hours were donated to the Senior Center. If paid \$7.50 per hour, they contributed \$29,880.00 worth of service. The Senior Volunteer Program which provides \$8.25 per hour stipend included 11 workers and provided 1116 units of service.

\$733,585.00 was awarded from CDBG Monies for the renovation of the senior center, Memorial Hall.

\$12,420.00 Title IIIB Grant awarded to the Palmer Council on Aging from Greater Springfield Senior Services for the Outreach Position for 12 hours/week.

\$35,000.00 was awarded from CDBG Monies for the Volunteer Coordinator and stipends for volunteers.

\$200.00 was awarded from CISA to provide 12 seniors on the Farmshare Program with vegetable steamers.

\$1,174.00 was awarded from the Palmer Cultural Council Grants for various programs.

\$500.00 was awarded from Harvard Pilgrim Health Care for a nutrition program.

\$540.00 was awarded from MArtap for a new fax machine and a GPS system for the van.

The Palmer Council on Aging has two wonderful organizations who work very hard at fundraising to benefit the senior center. The Friends of the Palmer Senior Center and The Palmer Senior Citizens Club both gave generously to purchase items for the senior center in 2007-2008. Thanks for all your hard work to improve our senior center. The Palmer Senior Citizen's Club dissolved in 2009 after 35 years as a 501(c)3 due to lack of volunteers to hold offices.

I would like to thank all of the staff, volunteers and the Council on Aging Board Members for all the work that they do all year. They are very dedicated and caring people who strive to provide the best services for the elders in Palmer.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Pincince
Director

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICE

The year 2009 is once again taxing and trying for the Department of Veterans Service, as the economy is floundering at best and veterans being put out of work has provided for a challenging year. This office is seeing a rise in younger veterans out of work. I stay committed to helping them obtain employment and search for other means of support. I have also seen a rise in applications for veterans benefits through the Veterans Administration.

I have been to Washington D.C. to meet and listen to the New Secretary to the VA and how he intends to increase Veterans Benefits and decrease the backlog of applications for benefits and disabilities. I have also heard the President make the commitment to the veterans that he will not tie the Veterans Administration Health Care to any of the Health Care bills that may be passed this year. Hopefully this will once again open the door for all veterans to obtain health care from the VA. There is also a lot of talk of why isn't the VA billing Medicare for health benefits given to older Veteran, as this would create money and help to open the door for all veterans.

I have been actively approaching businesses about hiring the veterans, so if anyone has a job or knows of a job please contact this office at 283-2610.

My office has gone electronic as the Department of Veterans Service has given training and is now accepting all applications online, which makes getting approval for benefits much faster.

The Town of Palmer has stayed committed to helping the veterans of this Town. I also stay committed to servicing the veteran community.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark A. Avis
Director of Veterans' Services

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Palmer Historical Commission's monthly meetings are held on the last Wednesday of each month. At these meetings, which are open to the public, topics of historical significance as they pertain to the Town of Palmer are discussed. In addition, donations of historical items are always welcome and acknowledged.

The Historical Commission has been proud to work with the Palmer Community Development on the Memorial Hall Restoration Project.

On March 16, 2009 several historic sites were visited as part of the Heritage Landscape Inventory Program, which is overseen by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. Their aim is to identify and strategize the preservation of places of historical significance. The Commission is continuing its on-going project to catalog and file Palmer's historical data in the History Room at the Palmer Public Library. This room has proven to be a valuable resource for historical researchers and genealogists.

On January 20, 2009 Palmer's Town Historian, Jane Golas, passed away. Jane's commitment to the preservation of Palmer's history has been unequalled since 1889 when J. H. Temple wrote "*The History of Palmer 1716-1889*." Jane worked tirelessly, and her knowledge, wit, and willingness to teach others about history will be missed.

Election of Officers took place at the April 29, 2009 meeting:

Robert J. Ring, Chairman Marion F. Lis, Treasurer

Lorraine Y. Novak, Secretary

In April, Eric Raymond was appointed a member of the Palmer Historical Commission.

On May 24, 2009, the Historical Commission participated in a memorial Service at Quabbin Park Cemetery to commemorate the lives of those who once lived in the four towns, which are now covered by the waters of the Quabbin Reservoir.

Respectfully submitted,

PALMER HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Robert J. Ring	Stephen M. Nowak	Lorraine Y. Novak	Eric Raymond
Marion F. Lis	Rose Riskalla	Harold Olson	

LICENSE COMMISSION

The following is a summary of the licenses and fees collected for the 2008-2009 year.

All Alcoholic Beverage License:

Type	#	Fee	Total
Inn Holder	1	\$800.00	\$800.00
Club	5	\$800.00	\$4,000.00
Retail Package Store	4	\$665.00	\$2,660.00
Seasonal	1	\$400.00	\$400.00
Restaurant	13	\$800.00	\$10,400.00

Wine and Malt Beverage License

Retail Package Store	3	\$520.00	\$1,560.00
Restaurant	2	\$520.00	\$1,040.00
Restaurant with Cordials	2	\$565.00	\$1,130.00

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard L. Fitzgerald, Chairman
 Robert P. Frydryk
 Dennis Gaudreau
 Theodore Simard
 Michael Magiera

PALMER HOUSING AUTHORITY

The office and dwelling units, under the Chapter 667 Elderly/Handicapped Program, are located at 13 Fletcher Street in Palmer. The development, known as Laurel Manor, consists of 48 one bedroom units and was first occupied in January of 1971. All the rules and regulations are promulgated by the Department of Housing and Community Development, adopted by the Palmer Housing Authority Board of Commissioners and carried out by the housing authority staff.

Applications can be obtained at the office on 13 Fletcher Street or upon request. A preference is given to local residents and local veterans of 60 years of age or better. The current net income for eligibility, is \$41,150 for one person and \$47,350 for two persons. Four vacancies were filled between July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009, of which all persons were local residents and/or local veterans.

The Board of Commissioners consists of 5 members, 4 appointed by the Town Manager and 1 governor appointee. The Commissioners meet on the third Wednesday of every month at 4:00 P.M., to conduct the authority business.

The goal of the Board of Commissioners is to maintain the properties and to continue to provide clean, safe and affordable housing to those in need.

Respectfully submitted,

Veronica A. Strzeminski, Chairperson
Ronald W. Lemanski, Vice Chairperson
Germaine Lefebvre, Treasurer/State Appointee
Margaret Higgins, Assistant Treasurer
Mildred Jasak, Commissioner

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Palmer Zoning Board of Appeals received 2 applications for various petitions in efforts to meet the dimensional requirements to the Town of Palmer Zoning Ordinance for the 12-month time period from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

The Board held public hearings on all petitions received according to the provisions of Chapter 40-A, Section 11, of the Massachusetts General Laws. As a result of the hearings, 2 variances were filed, 1 was granted and 1 was denied.

Income from the Board amounted to \$ 200.00. These fees are collected to cover the expense of the public hearing.

Respectfully submitted,

Antonio Andre, Chairman
Norman Czech, Vice Chairman
Ingrid Thompson, Clerk
Gary Doane, Alternate

Russell Brown, Member
Dennis Fountain, Member
Walter Solzak, Alternate

DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL FINANCE
FY09 Appropriation Report

Dept.	Dept. Name	Function	Encumbered From 2007	Original Appropriation	Transfers/ Amendments	Revised Budget	Expended	Balance	Encumbered To 2010	Ending Balance
111	Town Council	Stipend		9.00	7,588.00	7,597.00	7,594.50	2.50		2.50
		Expenditures		500.00		500.00	350.50	149.50		149.50
123	Town Manager	Salaries		154,301.00	(6,482.00)	147,819.00	147,818.67	0.33		0.33
		Expenditures		18,618.00	1,000.00	19,618.00	18,956.29	661.71		661.71
130	Audit	Expenditures		20,000.00		20,000.00	20,000.00	-		-
132	Reserve	Transfers		7,500.00	(7,500.00)	-		-		-
	Actuarial Study	Expense		15,000.00		15,000.00		15,000.00	15,000.00	-
135	Accountant	Salaries	25.79	64,059.00	(4,222.00)	59,862.79	59,862.20	0.59		0.59
		Expenses		8,358.00		8,358.00	7,727.50	630.50		630.50
137	Central Purch.	Expenses		239,000.00		239,000.00	228,586.12	10,413.88		10,413.88
141	Assessors	Salaries	26.83	81,020.00	7,515.00	88,561.83	88,551.81	10.02		10.02
		Expenses	11,280.00	40,575.00		51,855.00	38,266.76	13,588.24	13,580.00	8.24
145	Treasurer	Salaries	360.00	54,750.00	(6,668.00)	48,442.00	48,441.39	0.61		0.61
		Expenses		13,925.00	12,000.00	25,925.00	25,325.30	599.70	594.39	5.31
146	Collector	Salaries		83,089.00	(9,978.00)	73,111.00	73,110.61	0.39		0.39
		Expenses		2,750.00		2,750.00	2,750.00	-		-
151	Laws & Claims	Salaries		21,000.00		21,000.00	21,000.00	-		-
		Contract		11,200.00		11,200.00	7,810.00	3,390.00		3,390.00
155	Computer Dept.	Expenses		56,124.00	6,000.00	62,124.00	62,124.00	-		-
161	Town Clerk	Salaries		80,760.00		80,760.00	80,736.56	23.44		23.44
		Expenses		1,990.00		1,990.00	1,939.43	50.57	23.00	27.57
162	Elections & Reg	Salaries		15,107.00		15,107.00	14,389.01	717.99	135.46	582.53
		Expenses	1,399.97	9,000.00		10,399.97	10,302.66	97.31		97.31
171	Conservation	Salaries		10,608.00		10,608.00	10,603.20	4.80		4.80
		Expenses		1,275.00		1,275.00	602.04	672.96		672.96

175	Planning Board	Salaries	71,041.00	33.93		71,074.13	0.80	0.80
		Expenses	6,000.00			2,814.92	3,185.08	3,185.08
		Other Misc.	2,450.00			1,090.50	1,359.50	1,359.50
		Expenditures	100.00			100.00	100.00	100.00
176	Board of Appeals	Expenditures	8,651.00			8,507.45	0.55	0.55
192	Building	Custodian	36,550.00	231.00	(143.00)	36,021.83	759.17	750.17
		Expenses	6,921.00			6,795.54	125.46	125.46
193	Memorial Hall	Custodian	9,350.00			7,895.05	1,454.95	1,454.95
		Expenses	750.00			685.00	65.00	65.00
		Capital					-	-
195	Town Reports	Expenses	1,719,208.00	45.53	(113,603.00)	1,584,778.58	20,871.95	20,815.20
210	Police	Salaries	44,750.00	3,019.15	5,000.00	51,340.92	1,428.23	657.18
		Expenses	42,900.00		8,000.00	50,784.12	115.88	115.88
		Contract Serv.	300.00			214.50	85.50	85.50
		Utilities	30,000.00			101,268.78	3,731.22	3,731.22
220	Forest Warden	Cruisers	2,500.00		75,000.00	2,499.96	0.04	0.04
		Salaries	150.00				150.00	150.00
		Expenses	47,566.00			47,592.24	-	-
241	Building Inspec.	Salaries	250.00	26.24		227.10	22.90	22.90
		Expenses	2,750.00			2,750.00	-	-
244	Sealer	Salaries	250.00		100.00	347.89	2.11	2.11
		Expenses	3,500.00			3,500.00	-	-
291	Civil Defense	Salaries	500.00			195.40	304.60	304.60
		Expenditures	18,087.00			18,087.00	-	-
292	Dog Officer	Salaries	3,300.00			3,300.00	-	-
		Expenses	1,448.00			1,448.00	-	-
293	Animal Insp.	Salaries	20,000.00			20,000.00	-	-
294	Forestry	Expenses	10,712,210.00	1,613,916.78	404,779.60	10,980,314.43	1,750,591.95	1,750,591.95
310	Schools	Salaries	4,929,290.00	183,771.89	(404,779.60)	4,078,582.49	629,699.80	79,429.15
		Expenses	1,438,874.00			1,438,874.00	-	-
320	Pathfinder	Assessment			(500.00)		-	-
410	Consulting Engineer		500.00				-	-

421	Highway	Salaries	450,538.71	(2,911.00)	447,627.71	445,190.64	2,437.07	2,437.07
		Admin. Exp.	34,300.00		45,565.91	45,065.78	500.13	331.83
		Expenses	56,000.00	13,097.39	69,097.39	69,097.39	-	-
		Utilities	9,425.00	4,600.00	14,025.00	13,110.23	914.77	914.77
		Capital		138,000.00	138,000.00	61,697.90	76,302.10	661.37
				(500.00)	4,000.00	4,000.00	-	-
422	Hwy Construction	Maintenance	4,500.00		18,000.00	53,825.14	(35,825.14)	(35,825.14)
423	Snow & Ice	Overtime	18,000.00		18,000.00	282,540.90	(100,500.90)	(100,500.90)
		Supplies	49,425.00	132,615.00	182,040.00	100,000.00	-	-
			100,000.00		100,000.00	5,500.00	-	-
424	Street Lights	Expenses	5,500.00		5,500.00	13,179.51	0.24	0.24
433	Waste Removal	Expenses	18,500.00	(7,910.00)	13,179.75	85,800.34	25.16	25.16
435	Ground Water	Expenses	85,825.50		85,825.50	14,027.31	784.69	289.69
491	Cemetery	Salaries	14,812.00		14,812.00	18,501.44	0.56	0.56
		Expenses	18,502.00		18,502.00	216.49	633.51	633.51
510	BOH	Salaries	850.00		850.00	2,625.00	-	-
		Expenses	2,625.00		2,625.00	93,271.44	0.26	0.26
523	Human Services	Expenses	94,264.00	(1,081.00)	93,271.70	1,286.26	13.74	13.74
541	COA	Salaries	1,300.00		1,300.00	11,097.00	-	-
		Expenses	11,097.00		11,097.00	99.95	500.05	500.05
543	Veterans	Salaries	600.00		600.00	57,570.93	499.07	499.07
		Expenses	72,400.00	(14,330.00)	58,070.00	464,982.83	-	-
		Misc. & Ben.	463,474.00	1,508.83	464,982.83	264,944.17	-	-
610	Library	Salaries	275,187.00	(10,242.83)	264,944.17	-	-	-
		Expenses	18,000.00	(18,000.00)	-	-	-	-
630	Recreation	Salaries	2,000.00	(2,000.00)	-	-	-	-
		Expenses	150,842.79	(775.00)	150,067.79	148,189.28	1,878.51	1,878.51
650	Parks	Salaries	33,413.00		33,413.00	29,397.87	4,015.13	4,015.13
		Expenses		20,000.00	20,000.00	19,909.79	90.21	90.21
		Capital			27,950.00	27,765.16	184.84	184.84
651	Town Parks	Maintenance	27,950.00		27,950.00	195.88	34.12	34.12
691	Historical	Expenses	230.00		230.00	685.75	3,064.25	3,064.25
692	Memorial Day	Expenses	3,750.00		3,750.00			

TOWN OF PALMER
BALANCE SHEET 6/30/09
(UNAUDITED)

ASSETS

	GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL REVENUE FUND	CAPITAL PROJECT FUND	TRUST/AGENCY FUND	GEN LTD ACCOUNT GROUP	FIRE DISTRICTS	TOTAL
CASH	6,650,670.97	-	-	-	-	-	6,650,670.9
DUE TO/FROM Petty Cash	(3,887,821.38)	1,041,658.46	488,435.28	2,359,269.60	-	(1,541.96)	0.00
DUE FROM GOV'T.	200.00	323,730.29	-	-	-	-	323,730.2
DUE FROM OTHER	-	1,035.83	-	-	-	-	1,035.83
RECEIVABLES	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
REAL ESTATE TAX	672,211.65	-	-	-	-	60,200.12	732,411.7
PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX	66,704.20	-	-	-	-	-	66,704.2
MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE TAX	280,581.15	-	-	-	-	-	280,581.1
OTHER EXCISE	828.17	-	-	-	-	-	828.17
POSSESSIONS	35,496.72	-	-	-	-	-	35,496.7
TAX LIENS/TAX TITLE	1,348,326.33	-	-	-	-	-	1,348,326.3
DEFERRED TAXES	45,578.45	-	-	-	-	-	45,578.4
SEWER	-	504,833.53	-	-	-	-	504,833.5
SEWER LIENS	-	50,827.37	-	-	-	-	50,827.3
SEWER INTEREST	-	2,450.24	-	-	-	-	2,450.24
OTHER RECEIVABLES	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
STATE AID - HIGHWAY/SCHOOL CONST.	-	347,105.57	-	-	-	-	347,105.5
CDBG GRANT RECEIVABLE	-	751,199.36	-	-	-	-	751,199.3
DUE FROM MWPAT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
AGENCY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
AMOUNTS TO BE PROVIDED FOR DEBT	-	-	179,000.00	-	12,289,525.00	-	12,468,525.0
TOTAL ASSETS	5,212,776.26	3,022,840.65	667,435.28	2,359,269.60	12,289,525.00	58,658.16	23,610,504.9

LIABILITIES

WARRANTS PAYABLE	-	85,133.66	365,539.2
RESERVE FOR ABATEMENTS	280,405.67	-	-
	44	-	-

DEFERRED REVENUE	2,169,321.00	1,656,416.07	(24,933.54)	3,800,803.5
TAX TITLE AMOUNTS DUE FIRE DISTRICTS	7,353.17			7,353.17
DUE TO FIRE DISTRICTS	11.50			11.50
STATE REIMB DUE DISTRICTS	289.00			289.00
DUE TO OTHER	(2,286.04)			(2,286.04)
EMPLOYEE DEDUCTIONS WITHHELD	103,506.67			103,506.67
STATE REVOLVING LOAN - CSO PROJECT				
BONDS PAYABLE		179,000.00		12,289,525.00
CSO SERIAL NOTE PAYABLE			142,583.46	179,000.00
AGENCY				142,583.46
TOTAL LIABILITIES	2,558,600.97	1,656,416.07	60,200.12	16,886,325.6
RESERVED FOR ENCUMBRANCES	1,993,585.53	66,526.44		2,060,111.9
RESERVED FOR FY 2009	217,806.86			217,806.86
RESERVED FOR TEACHER DEFERRAL	(76,403.00)			(76,403.00)
RESERVED FOR SNOW AND ICE DEFICIT	(136,326.04)			(136,326.04)
RESERVED FOR SEWER SURPLUS	655,511.94	302,218.19		302,218.19
UNRESERVED FUND BALANCE		997,679.95	2,216,686.14	4,356,771.3
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	2,654,175.29	1,366,424.58	(1,541.96)	6,724,179.3
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	5,212,776.26	3,022,840.65	58,658.16	23,610,504.9

TOWN OF PALMER
Special Revenue Balances
AS OF JUNE 30, 2009

ORG	DESCRIPTION	BALANCE	Accruals	BS Balance
23	22 SCHOOL LUNCH	729.66		729.66
244	HWY CONSTRUCTION	(242,487.54)	242,487.54	-
	WWTP	0.00		-
		45		

24111008	CHARTER COMMISSION REVOMING	4,837.05	4,837.05		
24122308	TOWING PERFORMANCE	-	-		- to Agency
24122318	STREET ENTRANCE BONDS	-	-		- to Agency
24122326	CURBSIDE RECYCLING GRANT	1,664.00	1,664.00		
24122328	STREET EXCAVATION BONDS	-	-		- to Agency
24122336	LOCAL EMERGENCY GRANT	74.24	74.24		
24122338	BID BOND ESCROW	-	-		- to Agency
24122356	MUNI RECYCLE INCENTIVE PROGRAM	4,052.91	4,052.91		
24122358	INSURANCE REIMB FOR DAMAGES	28,040.69	28,040.69		
24122366	MRF ADVISORY BOARD GRANT	5.05	5.05		
24122406	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT	206,970.45	206,970.45		
24122407	COMM. DEV. TASK FORCE	1,578.00	1,578.00		
24122416	DIAMOND FIBER SET ASIDE GRANT	5,531.88	5,531.88		
24122436	COMM DEVELOPMENT MHFA PROGRAM	13,571.88	13,571.88		
24122438	USDA 43D HP Grant	(52,739.50)	57,739.50		
24122478	ST LIGHT RIVER ROAD GIFT	1,000.00	1,000.00		
24122488	COMPOST BINS	528.50	528.50		
24122808	SALE OF REAL ESTATE	52,528.25	52,528.25		
24171238	CONS COMM REVIEW APPLICATION FEE	694.96	694.96		
24171368	CONSERV COMM WETLANDS - STATE	25,069.71	25,069.71		
24171378	CONSERV COMM SPECIAL MAINT	2,341.60	2,341.60		
24171728	CONSERV COMM - TOWN	277.68	277.68		
24175388	PLAN BOARD APPLICATION REVIEW FEE	21,970.64	21,970.64		
24175390	Plan Board 43D Tech. Assistance Grant	54,662.24	54,662.24		
24176748	BOARD OF APPEALS	1,968.89	1,968.89		
24210418	POLICE DEPARTMENT GIFT	1,385.54	1,385.54		
24210428	DARE GIFT	3,501.42	3,501.42		
24210508	POLICE WORKMAN'S COMP REIMB	0.00	-		
24210516	TASK FORCE GRANT	0.00	-		
24210517	FY01 LAW ENFORC BLOCK GRANT	0.00	-		
24210527	FY00 LAW ENFORC BLOCK GRANT	2,077.09	2,077.09		
24210537	FY02 LAW ENFORC BLOCK GRANT	186.14	186.14		
24210549	COMMUNITY POLICING	490.11	490.11		
24210600	POLICE RENOVATION MATCHING GRANT	186.89	186.89		
24210700	BULLET PROOF VEST GRANT	6,800.00	6,800.00		
24210800	911 Training Grant	(2,206.88)	2,206.88		
24210900	911 SUPPORT & INCENTIVE GRANT	(21,296.37)	21,296.37		
24210909	POLICE OFF DUTY WORK DETAIL	0.00	-		- to Agency
24210919	FIREARMS LICENSE FEES	0.00	-		- to Agency
24210929	RIGHT TO KNOW LAW	876.66	876.66		

24292438	DOG OFFICE GIFT	792.19	792.19
24310001	ARRA FISCAL STAB. SUPPORT GRANT	-	-
24310016	JUMP UP & GO GRANT	-	-
24310077	MCAS SUMMER GRANT	-	-
24310098	School Professional Dev. Reimbursement	1,988.22	1,988.22
24310126	DRUG FREE SCHOOLS	-	-
24310137	ENHANCED HEALTH SERVICES	-	-
24310167	ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES	-	-
24310448	CULTURAL SCHOOL BUS GRANT	-	-
24310456	#240 SPED 94-142 Alloc.	78,052.67	78,052.67
24310466	#274 SPED Prog/Improvement	3,790.21	3,790.21
24310486	520 SPED CIRCUIT BREAKER	773.18	773.18
24310571	#305 TITLE 1	22,415.86	22,415.86
24310597	TITLE IIA 140 TEACHER QUALITY	3,811.48	3,811.48
24310608	SCHOOL LOST BOOKS	2,175.31	2,175.31
24310618	SCHOOL ATHLETICS	6,688.22	6,688.22
24310628	SCHOOL USE OF FACILITIES	11,035.84	11,035.84
24310638	SCHOOL REVOLVING TUITION	21,504.25	21,504.25
24310648	SCHOOL MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT	36,327.09	36,327.09
24310658	SCHOOL STUDENT ACTIVITY	0.00	- to Agency
24310668	SUMMER SCHOOL	0.00	-
24310688	SCHOOL GIFT	35,875.10	35,875.10
24310757	TITLE IIB ENHANCED ED THROUGH TECH	1,635.35	1,635.35
24310767	262 EARLY CHILDHOOD GRANT	13,892.57	13,892.57
24310777	302 TITLE V INNOVATION PROGRAM	0.00	-
24310778	FY05 MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT	0.00	-
24422508	HIGHWAY WORKMAN'S COMP REIMB	0.00	-
24441000	SEWER OVERFLOW PREVENTION GRANT	4,525.67	4,525.67
24443005	TOWN SEWER SURPLUS	0.00	-
2443006	TOWN SEWER SURPLUS - RES. SEW LINES	0.00	-
24491818	SALE OF CEMETARY LOTS	27,479.00	27,479.00
24510476	HRSA HOSPITAL BIO TERROR	3,500.00	3,500.00
24510949	BOARD OF HEALTH PERC TESTS	160.00	160.00
24541008	COA GIFT	25,464.89	25,464.89
24541110	COA BLDG FUND GIFT	10,151.31	10,151.31
24541200	COA TRANSPORTATION GIFT	5,749.12	5,749.12
24541206	SENIOR CITIZENS FORMULA	27.46	27.46
24541216	TITLE III OUTREACH GRANT	(271.25)	1,035.83
24541236	STATE GRANT ELDER AFFAIRS	2,947.35	2,947.35
24541246	GREATER SPFLD SENIOR PHARM GRN	0.00	-

24541256	SPECIAL SENIOR SERVICES	43,898.63	43,898.63
24541406	COA BLOCK GRANT VOLUNTEER PROG.	4,450.00	4,450.00
24543346	VETERANS SERVIC GRAVES R	880.00	880.00
24610448	LOCAL ARTS LOTTERY	5,832.43	5,832.43
24610605	LIBRARY INCENTIVE GRANT	36,259.51	36,259.51
24610607	LIBRARY MATCHING GRANT	2,570.47	2,570.47
24610615	MUNICIPAL EQUALIZATION GRANT	50,318.82	50,318.82
24610625	NON RES. CIRC. OFFSET GRANT	23,807.15	23,807.15
24610666	LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION GRANT	1,179.93	1,179.93
24610778	LSTA TEEN GRANT	7,271.10	7,271.10
24630548	BURLEIGH PARK REVOLVING	6,591.16	6,591.16
24630549	BONDVILLE PLAYGROUND	444.00	444.00
24630550	PALMER SKATEBOARD GIFT	0.00	-
24630551	PALMER VILLAGE PLAYGROUNDS	0.00	-
24650458	HRYNIEWICZ PARK GIFT ACCOUNT	1,900.00	1,900.00
24650498	BONDVILLE SCH SITE GIFT	204.50	204.50
24650738	LEGION FIELD LIGHTS REVOLVING	1,132.76	1,132.76
24691468	HISTORICAL COMM REHAB & MAINT FUND	21,245.77	21,245.77
2701238	CABLEVISION REVOLVING	11,883.03	11,883.03
2702421	GAS INSPECTOR PERMITS	3,092.00	3,092.00
2702431	PLUMBING INSPECTOR PERMITS	2,032.60	2,032.60
2702451	ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR PERMITS	1,510.53	1,510.53
2704338	BULKY DAY REVOLVING	1,046.51	1,046.51
	Less Agency (See Agency Fund)	0.00	0.00
	Total Special Revenue UFB	672,913.83	997,679.95
		672,913.83	997,679.95
		66,526.44	66,526.44
		739,440.27	931,153.51

WWTP Res. For Enc.
Total Special Revenue Fund Balance

Capital Projects

As of June 30, 2008 (pre-audit) June 30, 2009

ORG	DESCRIPTION	Balance	Transfer In	Revenue	Expenses	Transfer Out	Balance
301224	STREET SCAPE IMPROVEMENT	4,758.49					4,758.49
301555	MUNICIPAL SOFTWARE	43.15					43.15
301615	TOWN CLERK VOTING MACHINE	7,000.00				7,000.00	-
301625	VOTING MACHINES ART 30	1,540.40				1,540.40	-
301895	CHESTNUT & ARCH STS IMPROVEMENT	-					-
301896	FOX ST IMPROVEMENT PROJ	47,803.96	234,333.67		261,128.09		21,009.54
301924	PALMER TOWN BUILDING IMPROV	2,679.40	25,000.00		5,976.75		21,702.65
301935	TOWN BLDG ADA COMPLIANCE	50,000.00			8,000.00	42,000.00	-
303104	PALMER PUBLIC SCHOOLS CONSTRUCT	5,626.71					5,626.71
304364	SANITARY LANDFILL CLOSURE	251,938.44					251,938.44
304414	MONET ST. SEWER LINE	-					-
304434	WATER TREATMENT PLANT	132,821.99					132,821.99
304435	WWTP THREE BELT PRESS	-					-
304436	CSO PHASE IV		150,000.00		100,128.29		49,871.71
306104	PUBLIC LIBRARY	662.60					662.60
	Total Capital Projects	504,875.14		-	375,233.13		488,435.21

TOWN OF PALMER

Trust and Agency Funds

AS OF JUNE 30, 2009

TRUSTS

ORG	DESCRIPTION	Balance	AA	Transfer In	Revenue	Expenses	Transfer Out	Balance
8395000	STABILIZATION FUND	777,078.08	2,675.39	186,372.00	22,893.99		200,000.00	789,019.48
8395001	School BAN Stabilization	893,102.25			38,044.96			931,147.21
8395100	CONSERVATION FUND	2,448.77			83.11			2,531.88
8395200	THOMPSON FUND	1,471.90			29.82			1,501.72
8395300	MERRICK FUND	1,323.34			26.81			1,350.13
		49						

8395400	CEMETARY FUND	337,547.35	29,296.64	7,470.00	359,373.9
8395500	FULLER FUND - SCHOOLS	1,933.49	39.18		1,972.6
8395600	FULLER FUND - PARKS	2,637.60	53.44		2,691.0
8395700	LAW ENFORCEMENT TRUST	29,976.47	(7.79)	11,942.68	64,694.1
8395800	M SLESINSKI MEM SCH FUND	6,726.79	(53.52)	250.00	6,738.8
8395900	WIBACK-CALKINS GRIMALDI FUND	53,024.50	(9.38)	300.00	53,153.8
8396000	JOSEPH NIKODEM MEMORIAL FUND	1,317.67	(1.08)		1,314.0
8396100	PALMER TEEN CENTER	1,186.28			1,197.1
Fund Balance trusts		2,109,774.49	2,603.62	186,372.00	2,216,686.1
AGENCY					
91012318	Street Entrance Bonds	53,875.00	5,600.00	2,000.00	57,475.0
91012328	Street Excavation Bonds	17,955.00	4,600.00	8,000.00	14,555.0
91012338	Bid Bond Escrow	8,010.00			8,010.0
91014600	Deputy Collector	(2,885.00)	61,004.00	58,119.00	-
91021016	Firearms License Fees to State	9,487.50		9,487.50	-
9102109	Police Off Duty Work Detail	48,084.98	104,417.79	105,173.62	47,329.1
91031064	Old Mill Pond Student Activity	11,114.24	3,170.56	1,875.66	12,409.1
91031065	Palmer High School Student Activity	12,271.24	68,366.55	78,900.00	1,737.7
91031066	Converse Middle School Activity		1,067.38		1,067.3
Total Agency		78,072.96	-	236,958.90	142,583.4
Total Trust/Agency		2,359,269.60			
Less Agency Liabilities		(142,583.46)			
Total Trust/Agency Undesignated Fund Bal.		2,216,686.14			

Balance Sheet Trust/Agency U.F.B 2,216,686.14

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Bernier, Town Accountant

ASSESSORS

LOCAL EXPENDITURES

Appropriations	\$33,976,878.11
Offsets	39,619.00
Deferral of Teacher's Pay	114,606.00
Snow & Ice Deficits	269,575.06
State & County Charges	284,428.00
Overlay	179,240.88

TOTAL AMOUNT TO BE RAISED **\$34,864,347.05**

ESTIMATED RECEIPTS AND OTHER REVENUE SOURCES

Cherry Sheet Estimated Receipts	\$14,035,347.00
Massachusetts School Building Authority Payments	2,025,950.00
Local Estimated Receipts	4,047,410.00
Other Available Funds	416,963.61
Free Cash	43,180.50
Free Cash to reduce the tax rate	0.00
Teacher's Pay Deferral	76,404.00

TOTAL ESTIMATED RECEIPTS **\$20,645,255.11**

NET AMOUNT TO BE RAISED **\$14,219,091.94**

NET AMOUNT TO BE RAISED / TOTAL VALUATION = TAX RATE FY2009

\$14,219,091.94	/	1,012,035,013	=	\$14.05
CLASSIFIED PERCENTAGES				

LEVY PERCENTAGE		LEVY BY CLASS
RESIDENTIAL	82.9179	\$11,790,168.50
OPEN SPACE	0	0
COMMERCIAL	7.8113	1,110,700.10
INDUSTRIAL	4.9206	699,663.31
PERSONAL PROPERTY		4.3502
		618,560.03

100.00%

\$ 14,219,091.94

VALUATION BY CLASS

RESIDENTIAL	839,157,900
OPEN SPACE	0
COMMERCIAL	79,053,388
INDUSTRIAL	49,798,100
PERSONAL PROPERTY	44,025,625
TOTAL VALUATION	1,012,035,013

Respectfully submitted,

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Beverly A. Morin-Lizak
Michael J. Burns
Lawrence M. Jasak

TAX COLLECTOR / TREASURER

Schedule of Outstanding Receivables as of June 30th 2009

Real Estate Taxes

Levy of 2009	555,133
Levy of 2008	61,573
Levy of 2007	1,079
Levy of 2006	449
Prior Years	33,754
Total	\$ 651,988

Personal Property Taxes

Levy of 2009	4,356
Levy of 2008	1,038
Levy of 2007	4,385
Levy of 2006	963
Prior Years	23,291
Totals	\$ 340,33

Deferred Property Taxes

\$ 45,578

Motor Vehicle Excise

Levy of 2009	87,970
Levy of 2008	52,033
Levy of 2007	32,556
Levy of 2006	22,346
Prior Years	85,676
Total	\$ 280,581

Tax Liens/Tax Title

\$ 1,345,639

Tax Foreclosures/Tax Possessions	<u>\$ 35,497</u>
Other Excise Taxes	
Farm animal excise	<u>423</u>
Classified forest land	<u>405</u>
User Charges Receivable	
Sewer	<u>\$ 504,084</u>
Utility Liens Added to Taxes	<u>\$ 14,997</u>
Special Assessments Receivable	
Committed interest added to taxes	<u>\$ 709</u>
Grand Total	<u>\$ 2,913,935</u>

Bank Balances
June 30th 2009

<u>BANK</u>	<u>BALANCE</u>
Bank of Western Mass	\$ 914,751.94
Century Bank	\$ 70,218.28
County Bank	\$ 343,477.38
Eastern Bank	\$ 6,884.99
ING	\$ 288,057.08
MFS	\$ 86,425.76
M.M.D.T	\$ 909,275.42
North Brookfield Savings	\$ 13,342.88
Peoples Bank	\$ 6,041.66
TDBankNorth	\$2,538,697.69
Unibank	<u>\$1,473,497.89</u>
TOTAL	\$6,650,670.97

PARKING CLERK

\$4,990.00 Total Paid in Fines on 153 Tickets

Respectfully submitted by

Melissa Zawadzki, Tax Collector/Treasurer

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

POLICE DEPARTMENT

From July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009, the Palmer Police Department answered approximately 15,287 calls for service. From these calls, 1,500 criminal offenses were recorded and investigated. Additionally, 679 individuals were arrested and/or summoned to court. More than 1,268 traffic citations were issued and 341 traffic accidents, involving 559 operators, were investigated. These accidents resulted in injuries to 180 individuals, including four fatalities. A complete statistical report of the year's activity follows this report.

The department is currently comprised of 20 full-time and 1 part-time police officers, and 6 full-time and 1 part-time civilian staff members.

The department received the following grants during this reporting period:

Community Policing Grant (Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security) - \$28,956 to aid in the development, implementation, and maintenance of community policing programs and initiatives. Our programs include Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) training, bicycle patrols, targeted traffic enforcement patrols, seat belt enforcement, public presentations, and many others. We owe a debt of gratitude to our state senator, Stephen Brewer, and our representative, Todd Smola, who were instrumental in securing these funds for us.

Traffic Enforcement Grant (Governor's Highway Safety Bureau) - \$10,000 total award. \$7,000 used for speed, seat belt, drunk driving and red light enforcement as part of the state's "Click It or Ticket" and "You Drink - You Drive - You Lose" campaigns. \$3,000 used to purchase radar units and tint meters.

9-1-1 Training Grant (State 911 Department) - \$5,000 total award. Through this program, governmental entities hosting primary Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) are eligible to receive reimbursement for training-related costs associated with the 9-1-1 system. Eligible awards are based on a rounded formula of 9-1-1 calls received and population served, with a minimum award of \$5,000.

PSAP Support and Incentive Grant (State 911 Department) - \$27,600 total award. The purpose of the State 911 Department Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) and Regional Emergency Communication Center (RECC) Support and Incentive Grants is to assist PSAPs and regional emergency centers in providing enhanced 911 service and to encourage the development of regional PSAPs, regional secondary PSAPs and regional emergency communication centers.

The delivery of public safety services is becoming increasingly challenging. Each year, for the past several years, the demand for these services increases, while revenues to fund them decrease. In FY 2009 we endured cuts in local aid and a stagnation of new growth that required cuts in every town budget. There does not appear to be an end to this downward cycle in the foreseeable future.

Because of the economic downturn in the state and the country, and the resultant decrease in every town department's operating budget, "Do more with less," has become our charge. While this is not easy, the dedicated members of the Police Department have risen to the challenge. I would like to thank them for their commitment to their department and to their community.

Statistically, we remain one of the busiest municipal police agencies in our area. We provide a high level of service with a substandard police facility and far fewer resources than many police departments of similar size. In spite of this, our staff remains true to their mission to provide professional services to the town. In the future, so as to continue to offer the level of service our residents demand, we must look at innovative things like regionalization and expanding our funding sources. These will be our goals for the immediate future.

In closing, I would also like to thank President Michael Magiera and the members of the Town Council, Town Manager Matthew Streeter, Executive Assistant Patricia Kennedy, the town's fire departments and fire chiefs, DPW Director Richard Kaczmarczyk and his staff, and all the other town offices and departments for their support and cooperation throughout the year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert P. Frydryk
Chief of Police

FY 2009													
OFFENSE (IBR)	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	TOTALS
		2			1					2		1	6
ARSON	4	4	6	4	3	3	5	3	3		2		37
ASSAULT - AGGRAVATED	16	15	2	7	8	11	12	14	9	10	15	8	127
ASSAULT - SIMPLE	13					6					1		20
BAD CHECKS	8	9	8	16	17	10	4	7	13	15	5	7	119
BURGLARY / BREAKING AND ENTERING	3										3		6
COUNTERFEITING / FORGERY	1			1						1			3
CREDIT CARD / AUTOMATIC TELLER	13	13	7	19	11	3	4	12	15	11	5	7	120
DESTRUCTION / DAMAGE / VANDALISM	14	6	3	7		2	2	5	9	11	13	9	81
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	2	2	7	5	1	6	1	3	5	4	3	3	42
DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE	3	5	2	4	2	4		10	8	7	3	3	51
DRUG / NARCOTIC VIOLATIONS	1		1										2
DRUG EQUIPMENT VIOLATIONS	13	19	12	13	11	7	13	12	16	14	12	11	153
DRUNKENNESS											1		1
EMBEZZLEMENT		2	1	2	1	4	4	1		1	1	2	19
FALSE PRETENSES / SWINDLE										1			1
FORCIBLE FONDLING										2		2	4
FORCIBLE RAPE			2	1	1	1	1	3		1	1	2	13
IMPERSONATION	2	3	3		13	7	2	2	4	8	8		52
INTIMIDATION								1					1
KIDNAPPING / ABDUCTION			2		2			4					8
LIQUOR LAW VIOLATIONS	2	1	5	1		1			2	5	3	1	21
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT												1	1
PORNOGRAPHY / OBSCENE MATERIAL											1		1
ROBBERY									1			1	2
SEXUAL ASSAULT WITH AN OBJECT	2	5		1	3	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	21
SHOPLIFTING		2		1					1				4
STOLEN PROPERTY OFFENSES			3	1					3				8
THEFT FROM BUILDING						2	2	1	5	22	2		40
THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE	3	3				2			1				5
THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE PARTS/ACCESSORIES	1			1		2							315
TRAFFIC, TOWN BY-LAW OFFENSES	22	26	22	35	20	36	21	22	18	31	30	32	25
TRESPASS OF REAL PROPERTY	3	1				1	1	2	7	2	6	2	12
WEAPON LAW VIOLATIONS	1		2	1	2		1	2		1	1	1	12
ALL OTHER LARCENY	7		6	7	4	2	4	6	10	1	3	3	53
ALL OTHER OFFENSES	18	28	6	7	9	7	6	5	5	13	10	12	126
MONTHLY TOTAL	152	149	98	134	109	116	84	116	137	165	131	109	1,500

PRIMARY ARRESTING OFFENSE (IBR)	FY 2009												TOTALS
	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	
ARSON	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	3
ASSAULT - AGGRAVATED	3	2	2	2	3	0	1	1	2	0	1	0	17
ASSAULT - SIMPLE	14	11	2	5	5	5	7	10	5	4	10	6	84
BAD CHECKS	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
BURGLARY / BREAKING AND ENTERING	0	6	0	0	5	6	0	0	1	1	0	2	21
COUNTERFEITING / FORGERY	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
DESTRUCTION / DAMAGE / VANDALISM	0	2	1	1	0	1	0	2	2	1	2	1	13
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	6	4	2	4	0	0	1	4	4	4	6	5	40
DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE	1	2	6	5	1	5	1	3	4	4	3	3	38
DRUG / NARCOTIC VIOLATIONS	2	3	0	3	2	2	0	1	0	4	0	1	18
DRUG EQUIPMENT VIOLATIONS	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
DRUNKENNESS	13	19	12	13	11	7	13	12	16	14	12	11	153
FALSE PRETENSES / SWINDLE / CONFIDENCE GAMES	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3
FORCIBLE FONDLING	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
IMPERSONATION	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
INTIMIDATION	0	1	0	0	3	0	1	0	2	2	1	0	10
LIQUOR LAW VIOLATIONS	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	13
SHOPLIFTING	1	5	0	0	3	1	0	1	1	1	2	0	15
STOLEN PROPERTY OFFENSES	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	4
THEFT FROM BUILDING	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
TRAFFIC, TOWN BY-LAW OFFENSES	10	11	7	11	8	13	11	8	6	11	10	13	119
TRESPASS OF REAL PROPERTY	2	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	3	6	1	18
WEAPON LAW VIOLATIONS	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	1	9
ALL OTHER LARCENY	1	0	1	3	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	10
ALL OTHER OFFENSES	14	12	4	5	7	3	6	3	4	5	8	10	81
MONTHLY TOTALS	69	83	44	54	51	45	44	60	51	58	63	57	679

OFFENSES (IN ARRESTS) BY AGE GROUP – FY 2009

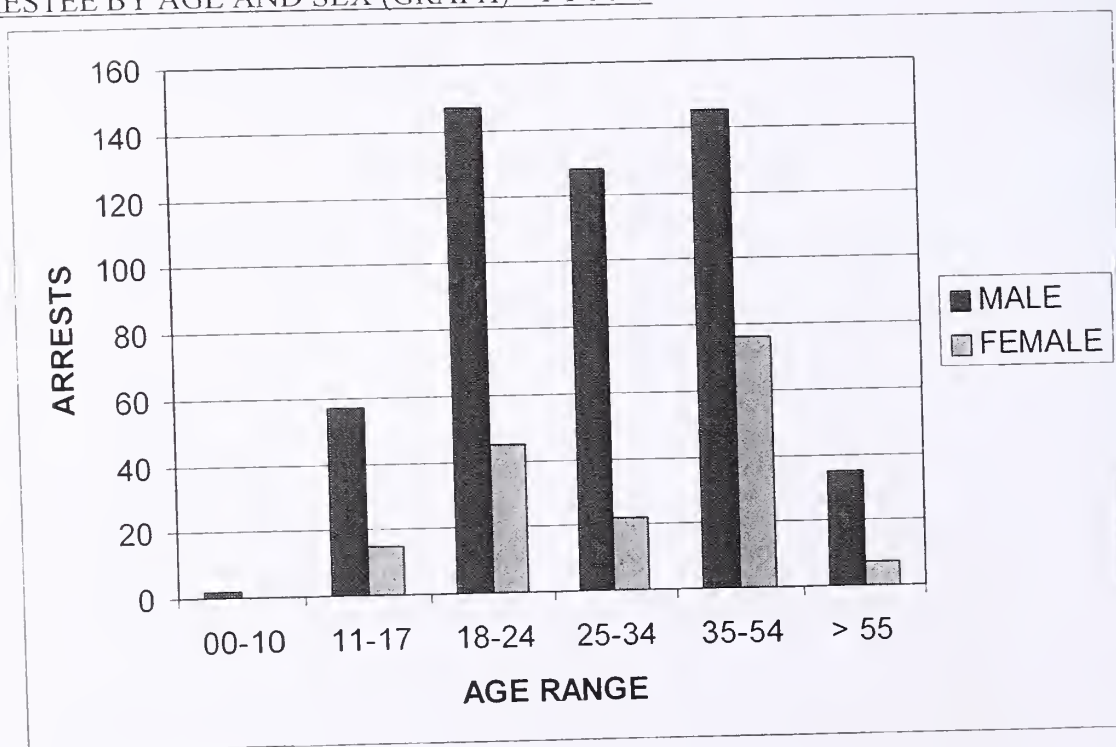
OFFENSE	OFFENDER AGE RANGE						TOTALS
	00-10	11-17	18-24	25-34	35-54	> 55	
ARSON		3					3
ASSAULT - AGGRAVATED			4	4	8	1	17
ASSAULT - SIMPLE		9	19	22	31	3	84
BAD CHECKS		1			1		2
BURGLARY / BREAKING AND ENTERING		3	13	3	2		21
COUNTERFEITING / FORGERY			1				1
DESTRUCTION / DAMAGE / VANDALISM		5	3	1	4		13
DISORDERLY CONDUCT		9	9	6	15	1	40
DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE			12	7	18	1	38
DRUG / NARCOTIC VIOLATIONS		1	8	4	5		18
DRUG EQUIPMENT VIOLATIONS					1		1
DRUNKENNESS		6	42	37	57	11	153
FALSE PRETENSES / SWINDLE / CONFIDENCE GAMES				2	1		3
FAMILY OFFENSES, NONVIOLENT							0
FORCIBLE FONDLING		1					1
IMPERSONATION					1		1
INTIMIDATION	1	2	1	1	2	3	10
LIQUOR LAW VIOLATIONS		3	9		1		13
SHOPLIFTING		2	7	1	3	2	15
STOLEN PROPERTY OFFENSES		1	2	1			4
THEFT FROM BUILDING					2		2
THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE			2				2
TRAFFIC, TOWN BY-LAW OFFENSES	1	4	34	36	26	18	119
TRESPASS OF REAL PROPERTY		1	5	2	10		18
WEAPON LAW VIOLATIONS		2		4	3		9
ALL OTHER LARCENY		7	2	1			10
ALL OTHER OFFENSES		12	19	18	30	2	81
TOTALS	2	72	192	150	221	42	679

WEAPONS INVOLVED IN OFFENSES – FY 2009

Weapon Type	Occurrence(s)	Percentage
None	1,321	87.89%
Personal Weapons (Hands/Feet/Etc)	131	8.72%
Knife/Cutting Instrument	16	1.06%
Blunt Object	13	0.86%
Other	12	0.80%
Motor Vehicle	4	0.27%
Handgun	3	0.20%
Firearm (Unspecified)	2	0.13%
Other Firearm	1	0.07%
Total Occurrences	1,503	100.00%

RACE/SEX	ARRESTEE AGE GROUP						TOTALS	Hispanic
	00-10	11-17	18-24	25-34	35-54	> 55		
Asian/Pacific Islander								
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Black								
Female	0	1	2	0	2	0	5	0
Male	0	4	6	7	12	1	30	7
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
American Indian/Alaskan Native								
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown								
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
White								
Female	0	14	43	22	74	7	160	4
Male	2	53	141	121	133	34	484	8
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	2	72	192	150	221	42	679	19

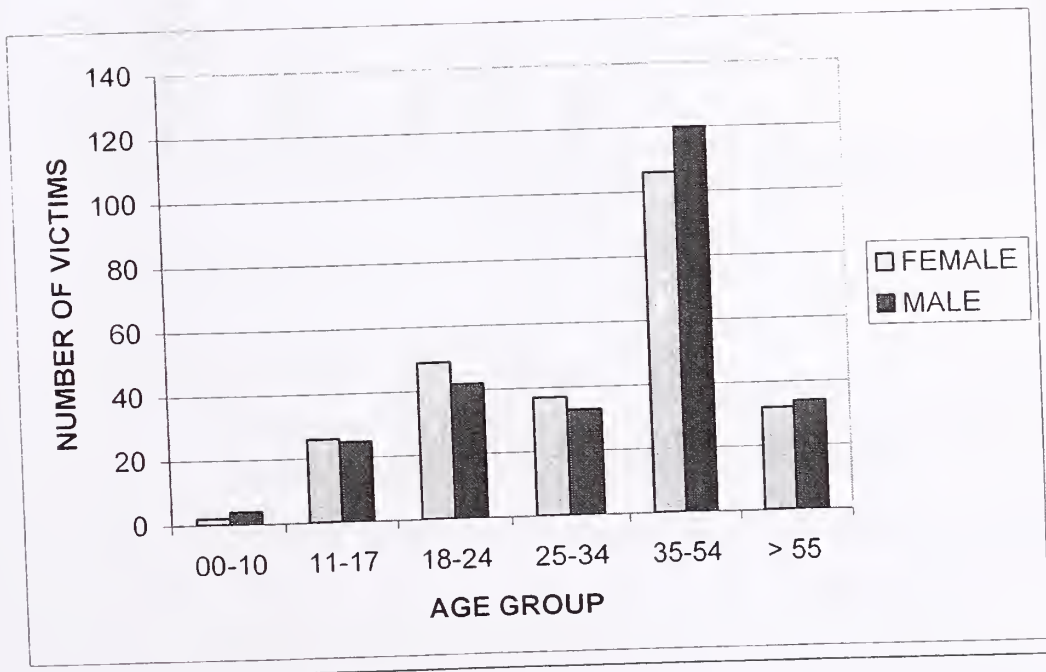
ARRESTEE BY AGE AND SEX (GRAPH) – FY 2009



VICTIMS BY AGE / SEX / RACE – FY 2009

RACE/SEX	AGE GROUP						TOTALS	Hispanic
	00-10	11-17	18-24	25-34	35-54	> 55		
Asian/Pacific Islander								
Female	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Male	0	0	0	0	5	0	5	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Black								
Female	0	1	1	2	1	0	5	0
Male	0	1	1	2	2	0	6	1
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
American Indian/Alaskan Native								
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown								
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
White								
Female	2	25	47	35	105	32	246	2
Male	4	24	41	31	113	34	247	6
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	6	51	91	70	226	66	510	9

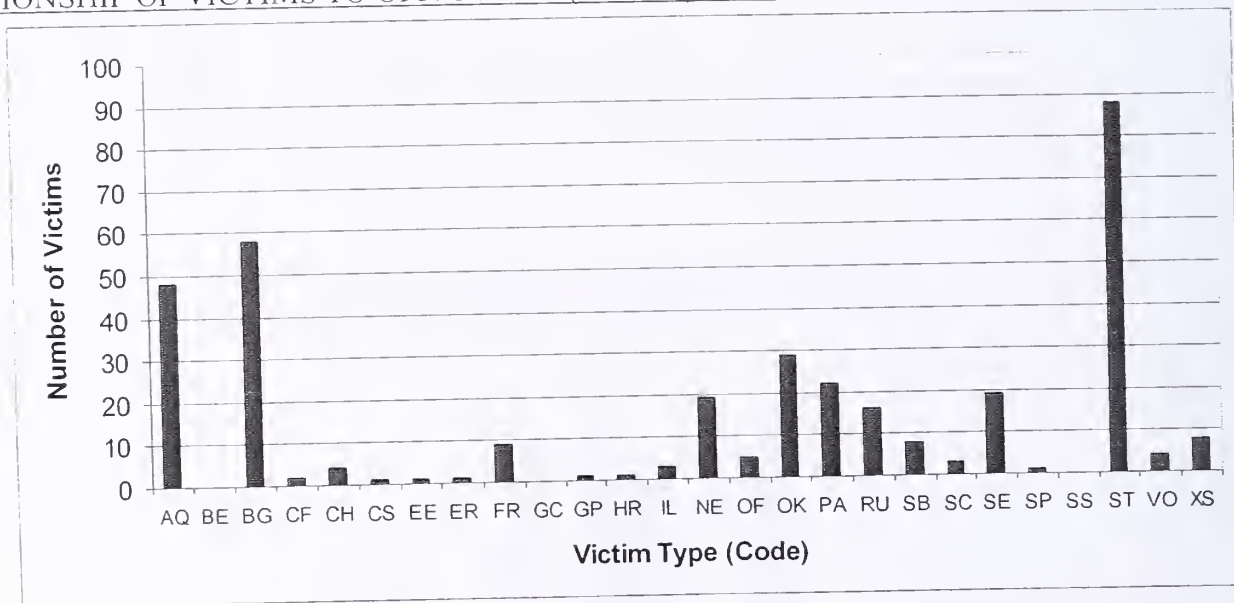
VICTIMS BY AGE GROUP AND SEX (GRAPH) – FY 2009



RELATIONSHIP OF VICTIMS TO OFFENDERS – FY 2009

CODE	RELATIONSHIP	TOTALS	CODE	RELATIONSHIP	TOTALS
AQ	Acquaintance	58	NE	Neighbor	13
BE	Babysittee	0	OF	Other Family Member	7
BG	Boy/Girl Friend	64	OK	Otherwise Known	27
CF	Child of Boy/Girl Friend	1	PA	Parent	17
CH	Child	6	RU	Relationship Unknown	9
CS	Common-Law Spouse	0	SB	Sibling	8
EE	Employee	0	SC	Stepchild	3
ER	Employer	1	SE	Spouse	17
FR	Friend	9	SP	Stepparent	2
GC	Grandchild	0	SS	Stepsibling	0
GP	Grandparent	2	ST	Stranger	121
HR	Homosexual Relationship	2	VO	Victim was Offender	2
IL	In-Law	2	XS	Ex-Spouse	4
			TOTALS		375

RELATIONSHIP OF VICTIMS TO OFFENDERS (GRAPH) – FY 2009



VICTIM INJURIES – FY 2009

Injury Type	Occurrence(s)	Percentage
None	86	48.86%
Apparent Minor Injury	76	43.18%
Possible Internal Injuries	4	2.27%
Severe Laceration	4	2.27%
Apparent Broken Bones	3	1.70%
Other Major Injury	3	1.70%
Total Occurrences	176	100.00%

ANIMAL INSPECTOR/DOG OFFICER

- 445 Complaints were received and investigated
- 47 Lost dogs and cats were reported
- 4 Dogs were adopted @ \$10.00 each
- 12 Dogs were adopted by rescue leagues
- 9 Cats were buried
- 2 Deer were buried

Fines Issued to dog owners who did not obey the Palmer Leash Law:

- 1st Offense \$25.00
- 2nd Offense \$35.00
- 3rd Offense \$50.00

In 2009 there were 22 fines issued at \$25.00 each
1 fine issued at \$35.00 each

Total fines for 2009: \$585.00

NOTICE:

2009 Dog Licenses are due April 1.

License Fees:

Male \$15.00
Neutered Male \$10.00
Female \$15.00
Spayed Female \$10.00

Late fee as of April 15 -- \$10.00

Late fee as of July 15 -- \$15.00

All stray dogs are held for ten days and then become the property of the Town of Palmer. They are then put up for adoption for a fee of \$10.00.

Respectfully submitted,

Frederick J. Guzik, Dog Officer
Wanda Guzik, Assistant Dog Officer

REPORT OF THE FOREST FIRE WARDEN

I herewith submit my report as Forest Fire Warden for the Town of Palmer for the period 2008 to 2009.

There were 63 responses for this period

Incident Type:

Forest, woods or wildland fires: 0
Brush, or brush and grass mixture fires: 8

Grass Fires:	1
Unauthorized burning:	48
Authorized controlled burning:	0
Citizen's complaint:	7

I would like to thank our Firefighters and Officers for their response, neighboring fire departments for providing mutual aid, Town Manager Matthew Streeter, Town Council, Palmer Police Department, and the Central Emergency Dispatchers for their assistance and cooperation provided during the year.

Respectfully submitted,
Alan J. Roy, Forest Fire Warden

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is a federally-mandated committee that will help our community protect public health, safety, and the environment from chemical hazards. The LEPC will become the focal point for all activities involved with Title III, Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act. The following activities will become the primary responsibility of the LEPC; data collection and information management, development of an emergency response plan, data collection on accidental chemical release, dealing with public inquiries about the risks of a chemical release, and increasing public awareness about the presence of hazardous materials within the Town of Palmer.

I have attended meetings and seminars sponsored by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency to ensure that we are current on emergency planning and hazardous materials response procedures. We continue to maintain and update the town's master plan for hazardous materials response and conduct drills for response agencies. Required administrative and emergency personnel have been tested and certified in the National Incident Management System. The LEPC has been attending meetings as participants of the newly created Quaboag Valley Regional Emergency Planning Committee. It is our goal to not only focus on hazardous materials, but to utilize an "all hazards" principle to better serve the region. Our objective is to become a more efficient system by sharing information, ideas, and resources within surrounding communities.

Chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction present new dangers to first responders and the public. Local emergency response agencies attend training and seminars to be prepared in the event of an emergency. The Palmer Fire Department maintains a federally funded Mass Decontamination Unit in partnership with the UMass Wing Memorial Hospital. All Firefighters, Fire Officers, and hospital personnel have completed training on this unit. We have received grant funds to operate and maintain inventory for the mass decon unit.

I would like to recognize the private and public agencies that are members of the Local Emergency Planning Committee:

Town Manager's Office, Town Council, Palmer Police Department, Palmer, Three Rivers, Bondsville Fire Departments, Board of Health, Department of Public Works, Office of Emergency Management, Conservation Committee, Palmer School Department, UMass/Wing Hospital, Palmer Waste Water Treatment, Palmer, Three Rivers, Bondsville, Thorndike Water Departments, Palmer Ambulance Service, Inc., and community representatives.

In closing, I thank all the agencies and representatives who have taken their own time to attend meetings held throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,
Alan J. Roy, Chairman
Local Emergency Planning Committee

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Highway – Parks – Cemetery - Wastewater

The Department Of Public Works consist of four divisions: Highway, Parks, Cemetery and Water Pollution Control. The department operating budget with the exception of Water Pollution Control is funded through the town's general operating expense. Water Pollution Control operates under an enterprise fund that is derived from sewer user fees, hauler fees as well as any other funds collected by that department.

HIGHWAY DIVISION.

The Highway Division was again struggling to maintain and deliver services. Cost of fuel, asphalt and other materials and budgets being reduced and the recession made it a challenging year to operate.

The Fox Street infrastructure improvement project was completed in late fall. Funded through a Community Development Block Grant the entire street, sidewalk, water and sewer systems were replaced as well as other work to enhance the neighborhood. This makes for a total of four projects, which were funded by this method completed in the last several years.

The cost of asphalt, which is tied to the oil market, started to increase in the spring and continued to rise through the season. By August, the cost of asphalt per ton was \$93.00-- \$30.00 at ton more then the spring. This increase along with the shrinking budget resulted in a scaled back paving season. Several roads were crack sealed and some paving was accomplished, however, it was far less then what had previously been done.

Road maintenance, culvert replacement as well as rebuilding of catch basins and manholes were the main focus of the department. The system we have now in place for cleaning and identifying catch basins and manholes in need of repair or replacement has greatly reduced the number of street flooding incidents we had experienced in the past.

Last years snow season was long and costly. A combination of price increases in fuel, salt and sand and the number of storms all played a major role in increasing the snow and ice funds needed to treat and maintain the 110 plus miles of roads as well as all the parking lots and other areas cleared by the department.

One new pickup truck was purchased last year and now it is time to focus on replacing some of the older larger trucks. The fleet is starting to show its age with major repairs becoming more prevalent then before. Cycling out of older trucks and equipment is key to maintain a good fleet and lowering repair cost. This is an area where at present we have fallen behind mainly due to the town's fiscal situation.

PARKS

The Parks continue to see heavy use of the facilities. Reduced manpower and limited funds combine make it a challenge to manage and maintain the system.

Last year capital funds were allotted to begin cycling out of the older equipment most of which was near the twenty-year mark. Equipment purchased consisted of a mower and a truck with plow and sander.

Again last year as in the previous year, help was received from the Pee Wee baseball organization. Labor, material and the installation of a fence on one of the smaller fields was greatly appreciated.

Sports teams were using the fields from spring until the middle of November with all types of sports including baseball, soccer, field hockey, softball and football to name a few. As mentioned in prior annual reports the fields are getting a heavy use and maintaining these areas is a demanding and expensive venture.

Vandalism is an ongoing problem with damage to fences, buildings and playground equipment. Three Rivers Common, Burliegh Park and Eager Playground were the most damaged areas.

Due to the poor condition of the skating rinks in Bondsville and Depot Village it is almost impossible to maintain a decent skating surface during the winter months. Both these areas were last re-surfaced in the late eighties and, after many seasons of a freeze- thaw cycle have become cracked and will not hold water long enough to create a good layer of ice.

If the budget continues to decrease it will be only a matter of time before hard decisions will have to be made as to just what the town can afford to offer in the parks and fields.

CEMETERY

The town's four cemeteries continue to operate with a reduced budget. Last year there were a total of 32 Burials, 11 of which were cremations. The revenue from the sale of lots and grave openings totaled \$20,398.00.

This department continues to operate with two full time employees and an occasional summer help employee funded through the perpetual care interest account. The interest money is rapidly being used and will soon be gone at which point it will be up to the town to either fund the summer help or do without.

Other sources of help have been through the summer youth employment program operated by Pathfinder. However, this program is one which operates on certain funding and we can never be sure we will get help every year.

We also continue to use the services of the Hampden County Trial Court system, which provides labor and equipment to all town departments free of charge.

There is a need to fund some capital improvements to the cemeteries soon. Roads need to be crack sealed or paved, fences need repairs or replacement and stone walls need to be replaced.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity thank all the employees of the Public Works Department for all their hard work and dedication, the Town Managers office, Town Council and all others that have assisted the department throughout the year.

Respectfully Submitted
Richard Kaczmarczyk, DPW Director

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITY

The past year has brought many new challenges to the PWPCF. We are in the final stages of Palmer's National Permit Discharge System (NPDES) renewal process. This permit is written by the USEPA, with local assistance from the MADEP. In the final draft stage, the permit will consist of many stricter limitations and monitoring requirements for Palmer to be in compliance with the Federal Clean Water Act. When the permit requirements are tightened, process changes may need to be made and in our case many of the proposed changes won't be met without the costly upgrading of the present facilities. Also, with tighter regulations comes the need for new types of expanded laboratory testing compared to the current analyzing being done.

The planning and design for the Phase 4 of the CSO separation project has been completed. Palmer will be able to access funding from the ARRA (federal stimulus) at 8.81 % for principal forgiveness, which will be about \$ 605,000. Town Manager Matt Streeter, our engineering firm, Tighe & Bond, Senator Brewer, Representative Smola and the office of Congressman Richard Neal, and myself worked diligently to insure Palmer received a piece of the stimulus money given to Massachusetts. Bidding for this project should be advertised in September/October of 2009 and awarding of the contract should be done by November 2009. Work has to begin by February 17,2010 and be completed before the end of 2011. Once this project is completed, we should see another reduction in the amount of storm water that mixes with the sanitary sewage, thus reducing the amount of overflows to our rivers. This will make the town's rivers amicable for increased fishing, boating and other outdoor activities plus also assist the cities and towns downstream from Palmer.

Lastly, I would like to thank the entire staff at the wastewater treatment plant for their commitment, cooperation, and professionalism that they demonstrate on a daily basis.

Respectfully submitted,
Gerald Skowronek, Superintendent
Palmer Water Pollution Control Facilities

PALMER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Introduction

Fiscal year 2009 was an exciting year for the Palmer Public Library. It was a year of challenges and transition. With over an estimated 142,000 visitors, the library served patrons of all ages from toddlers to senior citizens. Library programs and activities brought our community together to learn, explore, and share their common interests. Library users sought services for their recreational, educational, and cultural needs. As the library continued to experience growth in usage, the staff and Board of Trustees faced challenges with budget cuts. As a result of the economic conditions, it was a challenge to offer quality customer service and maintain traditional

services and hours of operation. The library's Long Range Plan 2008 – 2012 provided the new director with a charted course for the future and a great foundation to build upon.

Services

Overall circulation increased nearly 4% this past year and reflects the trend of increased demand throughout the state of Massachusetts. At the end of FY 2009, the library had 10,605 registered borrowers that use a variety of our services. Circulation of printed materials remained the traditional format that is checked out of the library. Audio and visual materials, such as dvd's, audio-books, and music cd's, were in greater demand with a 31% increase in circulation. The demand for newer formats, such as e-books, downloadable audio and videos, surged with over a 200% increase in usage from last year. The library was able to offer these new formats through our membership with *C/W MARS* and is accessible at www.digitalcatalog.cwmars.org (a valid library card is required). Another popular item available to our library card members is a variety of local museum passes. Passes to 14 different regional museums were checked out over 450 times, which helped individuals and families save money on admission fees to the *Springfield Quadrangle Museums*, *Museum of Science* (Boston), *Holyoke Children's Museum*, the *Mystic Aquarium*, and many other cultural institutions.

Holdings Information

Materials	ADULT & YA	CHILDREN	TOTAL
Books	39,439	20,596	60,035
Volumes of print periodicals and newspapers	312	40	352
Audio (Audio books and music CDs)	5,904	501	6,405
Video cassettes/discs/DVD	3,893	1836	5,729
E-books	974	0	974
Downloadable audio	1,810	0	1,810
Downloadable video	236	0	236
Other materials in electronic format (include CD-ROMs)	98	143	241
Materials in microforms	109	0	109
Miscellaneous (e.g. kits, puppets, museum passes)	66	513	579
TOTALS	52,841	23,629	76,470

The Palmer Public Library met all the requirements to be certified by the *Massachusetts Board of Libraries (MBLC)*. One of the many benefits of certification is that residents of Palmer have the privilege of requesting materials from other libraries throughout the state, also referred to as interlibrary loans. Library staff processed 34,227 interlibrary loan items to fulfill requests from library users, which is an increase of 15% over last year. Without certification, the library would not be able to participate in this reciprocal lending program with other libraries.

As the number of attendance increased in the library, the amount of reference transactions jumped sharply to over 27,200 transactions. Reference librarians answered a wide range of questions and helped patrons locate materials in the catalog and on the shelves, provided instruction on the use of the internet and research databases, assisted with research for homework assignments, traced family genealogy, and guided patrons to the wealth of information available at our patron's fingertips.

The library continued to support the community's need for technology services by offering 46 public computers, wireless services, copier/printers, and audio/visual equipment. Public computers allowed patrons to access the internet, reference databases, and a variety of software applications, such as Microsoft Office. Currently 756 patrons are registered users of this service – and countless others came in for assistance when personal devices were not working and needed our services to complete their tasks. In addition, the library's largest meeting space, the Community Room, gave individuals and groups the opportunity to use audio/visual equipment for their meetings. Throughout the year the four meeting rooms, which are available for use during operating hours, were used 1,347 times, excluding library sponsored programs.

The library hosted 231 programs throughout the year for adults and children. Carrying on with another tradition, the library hosted the 2008 Summer Reading program "*Wild Reads at your library*" which brought together 838 participants into the library to develop and nurture their love of reading. Summer Reading participants also enjoyed a variety of performances, including the *Toe Jam Puppet Band*, *Tanglewood Marionettes*, and a magic show by *Peter Boie*. Other activities during the summer included special story-time programs, arts & crafts, games, and a free roller skating party. Our summer reading program would not be a success without the financial support of the *Palmer Cultural Council* and generous donations from the business community.

Programming activities scheduled throughout the year gave over 1,000 adults and young adults the ability to explore a variety of interests and hobbies. In the fall of 2008, LuWanda Banks taught a series of workshops on memoir writing, Lisa Maria Lanno presented a workshop on graphology, and Ben Franklin gave piano lessons to eager students. The winter season remained active with an *Art of Pastel Workshop* by Gregory John Maichack, a *Model Train "Make & Take" Craft Clinic* sponsored by the *Amherst Railway Society*, and instructor Marie Labonte offered *Gentle Yoga* classes. In the spring of 2009, Craig Dellapenna presented *Historic Rail Trails*, which included a raffle prize to a local bed & breakfast. Librarian Helene O'Connor collaborated with Loretta Dansereau of *River East School to Career*, to offer a much requested series of workshops for job seekers and a workshop on resume writing. In its second year, the "*Wicked Wednesdays – Mystery Book Club*" continued to meet monthly to discuss mystery novels with more than a dozen dedicated mystery readers.

The ongoing relationship with Top Floor Learning supported the library's commitment to literacy and lifelong learning. Top Floor continued to grow and meet the changing needs of the community with a variety of adult programming, including GED and English as a Second Language classes.

Awards & Recognition

At the spring 2009 *Massachusetts Library Association Annual Conference*, the Palmer Public Library was presented two awards for two entries submitted in the 19th *Biennial Public Relations Awards*. The Palmer Public Library received *First Place* in the category of *Merchandise* for the publication *The Town of Seven Railroads*, which captures the distinctive history of Palmer. The library's quarterly newsletter, *Seasons*, received *Second Place* in the category of Newsletter (Professional).

Nancy Bauer, retired *Library Director*, and Mary Bernat, *Reference Librarian*, proudly accepted these awards at the PR Awards ceremony.

It was with mixed emotions that library staff, the Board of Trustees, and library patrons bid farewell to a dedicated and invaluable member of the library, Nancy Bauer, Library Director. Nancy Bauer retired after 34 years of service to the library and community. During a ceremony held on February 28, 2009, Nancy Bauer's years of service were recognized by the staff, Board of Trustees, the Railroad Advisory Board, and State Representative Todd Smola. During the past 34 years, Nancy Bauer's leadership, dedication, selflessness, and commitment to our community brought the library forward into the 21st century and served the residents of Palmer with exemplary customer service. While Nancy Bauer's accomplishments are too long to list, some highlights of her service included conducting story time for children and coordinating summer reading programs as the Children's Librarian for 13 years, provided unwavering support and insightful guidance for administration and staff as Assistant Director for 19 years, and then since 2006 served as the Library Director.

Another long time employee of the library, Geraldine Molleur, retired after 36 years of service as Reference/Collection Development Librarian. After joining the library in 2003 as a Library Page, Beverly Russell retired, too. Since her retirement, Beverly has continued to serve as a volunteer at the library by assisting with reshelving materials and other special projects. Caitlin Apenburg and Rui Zheng, both Library Pages, went off to college to pursue their dreams.

Library Support

During the fall of 2008, the *Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts* randomly selected Barbara Benedetti to nominate a local non-profit to participate in the Community Foundation's *Legacy Challenge*. Barbara, a long time Palmer resident and member of the Palmer Public Library Board of Trustees, named the library as beneficiary of an endowment fund. Fundraising efforts for the *Legacy Challenge* was a success and a \$20,000 permanent endowment fund was established in honor of Barbara's husband, Robert Benedetti, who was a true friend of the library and our community. The library is extremely grateful to the Benedetti Family and the community for their generosity to support library services of the Palmer Public Library for years to come.

The *Fourth Annual Poetry Pageant*, a fundraising event hosted by Paul Wisniewski included 25 participants and collected over \$550 as a donation for the *Legacy Challenge*. Another fundraising event, the Tenth Annual Bike Race, was organized by Eleanor Szlachetka, a member of the Board of Trustees, and raised over \$1,500 for the *Legacy Challenge*.

The *Friends of the Library*, a non-profit organization, has been operating the *Library Loft Book Store* for the past ten years with the mission of enhancing programming events at the library. This past spring the *Friends of the Library* added a new member, Seth Dinuovo, to serve as President. Seth has been an active member of the library and the community for many years. Under Seth's direction, the *Friends of the Library* will serve as a pivotal and necessary organization to ensure that the library is able to provide traditional programming and services that have historically been supported through municipal appropriations. The *Friends of the Library* also established a new email address, friendsofthepalmerlibrary@gmail.com, and began plans for increasing membership and fundraising activities in the upcoming year. The *Friends* are always looking for new members and encourage active volunteers!

The Palmer Public Library received additional funds to support various initiatives in the library. The *Amherst Railway Society* awarded a \$1,000 grant to be used toward the purchase of a cabinet to properly store maps located in the Railroad Research Collection. The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners disbursed the initial funds for the Library Services and Technology Act grant, "In Tune: Reaching out to 'Tweens & Teens'". Krista Navin, Young Adult Librarian, and Stephanie Maher, Assistant Youth Services Librarian, collaborated with Kimberly Ladue, RN, HCC owner and founder of Holistic Simplicity, LLC, in a series of workshops, *The Power of Positive*, that focused on teen health and wellness issues.

Conclusion

While the library faced challenges throughout the year, library staff, the Board of Trustees, and members of the community were committed to providing quality library services and achieving goals set forth in the library's Long Range Plan. FY 2009 proved to be a year that required compromise and creativity to avoid cutting library services and hours of operation. As economic conditions became more challenging, library statistics confirmed an increase in library usage not only at the Palmer Public Library, but nationwide. The Palmer Public Library, while working with fewer resources, continued to meet the needs of the community with a variety of programs, resources, and meeting spaces.

Committed to its role as a community center, the Palmer Public Library provided gathering space and a variety of materials to meet the personal, educational and cultural needs of its patrons in a safe and comfortable setting. In addition, the library continued its tradition of encouraging and supporting a love of reading and life-long learning with attention to the changing needs of the community.

Respectfully submitted,
For the Library Board of Trustees
Nancy Menard
Library Director

PALMER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

There were 56 fewer students enrolled in September 2008 than in the previous September and that enrollment decline continued throughout the year, ending with a total of 1,822 students in June 2009. This decline is faster than the projections predicted in the 2006-07 enrollment study conducted by the New England School Development Council (NESDEC). The largest decline was evidenced at Old Mill Pond School with 33 fewer students, ending the year with 710 students. Declines were noticed throughout the year at both Converse Middle and Palmer High School, ending the year with total enrollments of 451 and 672 students respectively.

The high school completed a year-long self-study and in March hosted Visiting Team representatives from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEAS&C), an agency that determines accreditation status. As of this writing, final results of the Visiting Team's Report and the NEAS&C accreditation status of Palmer High have not yet been received.

Palmer High School students continued to perform well on both the English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics (MA) portions of the spring 2008 MCAS test. For the eighth consecutive year, 100% of the graduating class achieved a competency determination requirement established by the Massachusetts State Board of Education to earn a diploma. While 93% of 8th grade and 95% of 10th grade students passed the ELA portion of the MCAS test, 80% and 78% of these students, respectively, were in the advanced or proficient categories. In MA 76% of 8th graders, and 93% of tenth graders passed the test with only 39% of the former, and 72% of the latter, scoring in the advanced or proficient levels in MA. On the Science and Technology MCAS test, 88% of 8th graders passed the test, although only 39% were in the advanced or proficient categories, while 97% of 10th graders passed the test and 60% were in the advanced or proficient category. Additional emphasis needs to be focused on low income subgroups, particularly in mathematics. For the first time, PHS students did not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for subgroups in ELA, and in the aggregate in MA. Student attendance continues to hover around 95%. The percentage of graduating seniors attending post-secondary institutions of higher learning remains high at 77%.

At Converse Middle School 94% of 5th graders, 92% of 6th graders, and 92% of 7th graders, passed the spring 2008 ELA MCAS tests, with 55% of 5th graders, 65% of 6th graders, and 68% of 7th graders in the advanced or proficient categories. In MA 82% of 5th graders, 86% of 6th graders, and 81% of 7th graders passed the test, while 46% of 5th graders, 50% of 6th graders, and 56% of 7th graders were in the advanced or proficient categories. While middle school students met achievement results on the ELA and MA portions of the MCAS in the aggregate, for the sixth consecutive year, subgroups continue to struggle with making AYP, particularly special education students in both ELA and MA, and low income students in MA. As a result, CMS was again placed on a corrective action notice by the newly renamed Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). In response, CMS administration and staff reorganized the schedule to provide for three additional math periods per week for 5th and 6th grade students and two additional math periods per week for 7th grade students. Student attendance continues to hover around 96%. At Old Mill Pond School 80% of 3rd graders passed the spring 2008 MCAS Reading test, with 45% of students in the advanced and proficient categories. Eighty-one percent

of 4th graders passed the ELA test, but only 28% achieved in the advanced or proficient categories. In MA 80% of 3rd graders and 88% of 4th graders passed the test with 53% of 3rd graders and 46% of 4th graders in the advanced or proficient categories. For the first time OMP did not make AYP neither in the aggregate nor in subgroups in both ELA and in MA. Student attendance continues to hover around 96%.

Also at Old Mill Pond, the American Heart Association selected Mary Lou Callahan as its National Principal of the Year. She was selected not only because of Old Mill Pond's "incredible success at Jump Rope for Heart" fundraiser the previous year, "but also for Mrs. Callahan's enthusiasm, passion, and commitment to the health and well-being of her students." To recognize her for this unique honor, January 22, 2009, was set aside as "Mary Lou Callahan Day" by the Town Manager, Matthew Streeter, who presented her with the Key to the Town. Representative Todd Smola and Senator Stephen Brewer presented to Mrs. Callahan Resolutions from the House and Senate, respectively. OMP teachers honored her with a pot luck breakfast and the PTO hosted a reception luncheon, with various school departments having planned activities throughout the day in her honor. The School Committee presented her with a plaque to recognize Mrs. Callahan for this distinct recognition. Channels 22 and 40, as well as the Republican and the Journal, covered the event.

Much of the second half of the school year in particular was focused on the results of the recession that hit all aspects of the national, state, regional and local economies, as the School Department endeavored to finalize its budget. Throughout the spring, state revenues continued to decline and the Governor signed the state budget on June 29th. That evening, the Town Council passed its budget which included a decrease in state aid to cities and towns to Palmer of approximately \$729,000 from the previous year. The anticipated \$431,000 federal stimulus and recovery dollars were negated by a cut by the same amount in the school department's budget by Town Council, resulting in the schools having less of an operating budget in FY10 than it had in FY09. To offset these cuts, the school department was forced to reduce staff by twenty-two teachers, eight paraprofessionals, four aides, three secretaries, one custodian, and one cafeteria worker.

The School Committee, administration, faculty, and staff are truly proud of the Palmer Public Schools, and the quality and effort provided by all those engaged in the educational process. We remain committed to our mission of continuing to become a community of learners; a partnership among home, school and community; a source of academic excellence evidencing a safe, healthy, disciplined environment that meets the needs of all students as they prepare to fulfill their roles in a democratic and increasingly global society. To these ends, we gratefully acknowledge and appreciate the ongoing support of the Palmer community.

Respectfully,

Palmer School Committee

Mary A. Salzmann, Chair
David M. Lynch, Vice Chair
James St. Amand, Member
Robert Janasiewicz, Member
Maureen R. Gallagher, Member

PALMER HIGH SCHOOL

Last school year (2007/2008), a great deal of time was spent preparing for the accreditation process by completing a year-long self-study in which the school determined its strengths and areas in which it needed to improve. This process was done through guidelines identified by NEAS&C (New England Association of Schools and Colleges). NEAS&C membership requires that a school undergo a self study and formal evaluation at least once every ten years. The next step of the process, which occurred in March of this school year (2008/2009), was the 4-day visit to Palmer High School by a Visiting Team of professionals who contributed their services to the school. The purpose of the visit was to review and determine the extent to which the school is meeting the Standards for Accreditation. The visiting committee met with all school personnel, reviewed the self study, visited a number of classrooms, and examined samples of student work submitted by the staff. The purpose of the visit was to assist the faculty in its pursuit of quality education for its students and to stimulate a continuing drive for improvement in the school. The Commission on Public Secondary Schools of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges will notify the school of its accreditation decision in the fall of 2009.

Palmer High School is committed to offering students a well-rounded curriculum designed to promote learning as a life-long process. As an inclusive institution, we encourage a focus on purpose, honor and scholarship as students attempt to discover their abilities and to reach their greatest potentialities through participation in a variety of academic, artistic, athletic, co-curricular, and community activities. Our curriculum offers Advanced Placement and Honors courses. Our electives include world languages (French and Spanish), art, music, technology education, physical education, health and nutrition, yearbook, and SaTL (Students as Technology Leaders). Activities and Clubs include Blood Bank, Chess Team, Athletic Trainers Club, Diversity Club, Drama Club, Interact, International Club, Life Smarts, National Honor Society, Paw Print Newspaper, SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions), Student Council, Best Buddies, Chamber Singers, and Jazz Band.

The class of 2009 consisted of 96 seniors. On May 28th, the top 20 students in the class were honored and recognized by the Palmer Rotary Club at the annual Student Achievement Luncheon. Academic and athletic awards were presented to seniors and underclassmen during the annual Class Day Ceremony, held on June 3rd. In the evening, seniors were rewarded for their years of hard work, effort, and academic success at the annual Awards and Scholarship Night where over \$56,000 was awarded in scholarships. We sincerely appreciate the generosity extended to our seniors by the numerous individuals, families, and organizations of Palmer. The culminating event, graduation, was held on June 7th at Legion Field in Palmer.

Palmer High hosted a September Open House for parents, November Parent Conference night, National Honor Society Induction Ceremony, Lions Club Speech Contest, the student drama production of "Who's Dying to be a Millionaire?", and a March Arts & Academic Night. In the fall, we sponsored our second annual Career Day. The keynote speaker for the event was Carl Beane, announcer for the Boston Red Sox. Over 30 professionals shared information about their careers to the student body. Our Music Department performed at various events throughout the year: Eastern States Exposition, the fall concert, Festival of Bands and Choruses in December, the QVMEA concert hosted here at Palmer High School, the Spring Concert, and the Memorial Day parade.

The Palmer United Booster Club and the Music Boosters were very active throughout the year. There were several fundraisers conducted, as well as recognition banquets for the student athletes and music students. We would like to extend special thanks to the members of both clubs for their time, hard work, and creative ideas for the benefit of the student body!

Members of the School Council met regularly to develop the annual School Improvement Plan. All of the goals of the plan are aligned with the goals of the Strategic Plan for the District as well as the District Improvement Plan. Members of the School Council are: Bonny Rathbone, Principal; Kate Marceau, Shawn Gersbach, and Fred Dileone, Staff Members; Mary Ellen Anton, Robert Haveles, and, Joanne McDiarmid, Community Representatives; Barbara Barry, and Saskia Cote, Parent Representatives; and Ex-Officio member, Joseph Bianca, Assistant Principal.

Palmer High School is a member of the River East School-to-Career Partnership. Partnership Activities included student attendance at a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) career awareness field trip at Western New England College and at a Construction Career Day at the New England Laborers' Training Center in Hopkinton, MA. Our School to Career Facilitator, Helena Naglack, worked collaboratively with Partnership Director Loretta Dansereau. Forty students participated in Work-Based Learning (actual work experience connected to classroom learning) placements during the school year. Additionally, students from our MCAS summer program worked at area businesses after their morning MCAS classes. We extend our thanks and appreciation to the worksite mentors for helping our students prepare for successful entry into the ever-changing demands of the workplace.

We appreciate and applaud the contributions of our staff members, parents, and community members in promoting life long learning skills and making a difference in the lives of our students.

Converse Middle School

The 2008-2009 school year has been a year of continued commitment to the learning and success of every student in grades five, six, and seven and for their success on the MCAS. Students in grade five were tested in ELA Reading Comprehension, Math, and Science and Technology/Engineering. Students in grade six were tested in ELA Reading Comprehension and Math, and grade seven students were tested in ELA Reading Comprehension, ELA Long Composition, and Math. The staff at Converse worked hard to have the students well prepared and the students put forth a serious effort.

Extensive data analysis and work was done through the Performance Improvement Mapping System (PIMS) process to develop appropriate SMART goals for the Converse Middle School Improvement Plan. The focus of this process was to specifically address math, English/language arts, as well as Science MCAS goals. In addition, we have continued with our newly implemented Every Day Math program with ongoing teacher training. To support our seventh grade students in math, we completed our second year successfully with two seventh grade homerooms of pre-algebra classes.

The Cougar's Den after school program has continued to be both a successful and valuable resource to many Converse students. Students have the opportunity to stay for an extended day that provides them with the opportunity for extra help, study centers, as well as a variety of educational and fun learning opportunities. The Cougar's Den staff has been supportive of the learning needs of Converse students in their design of specific math goals. Funding is a critical issue for this program so they have continued to seek out fundraising and grant opportunities to maintain their level of support to the students. The support of the community has meant a great deal to the Cougar's Den program, Converse students and their families.

The Converse Middle School PTO has continued to provide significant support to the students and staff. Their fundraising has gone a long way to support a variety of activities including field trips, cultural activities and assemblies. The PTO has also continued to support and organize the 'Step-Up' Ceremony for the seventh grade students. Each seventh grade student was presented with a gift of a scientific calculator that should be quite useful to them as they enter Palmer High School. The PTO also supports the Converse Spring Fling each year as well as supporting the Converse School Yearbook that is produced each year. There are many parents and volunteers who provide many, many hours of work and support behind the scenes for the PTO and Converse. We cannot thank them enough for their support. It makes a big difference!

Unfortunately, budget cuts to the School Department budget at the close of the school year, have necessitated severe cuts to student programming that will certainly present challenges to student scheduling for the 2009-2010 school year.

OLD MILL POND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Education is about discovering the special skills and talents of children and guiding their learning according to high standards. Lorraine DiNuovo is one of those individuals who has been an essential part of the Old Mill Pond School Community and it is a great honor to pay tribute to her, as she retired, recognizing and thanking her for her dedication of 37 years of service and commitment not only to the children of Palmer, but the Palmer community at large.

First and foremost, it is the Old Mill Pond School Council's undertaking to address both short-term and long-term goals in order to improve the educational quality of our students at *Old Mill Pond Elementary School*. Our plan's practicality reflects an active document which serves as a guide for the future. Progress accountability reporting has been directly highlighted in the Council's Activities. As a work in progress, the council has addressed, amended and enhanced the document to reflect SMART GOALS which are aligned with Palmer Public Schools Strategic Plan.

The following is a list of some of the activities which have occurred within the Old Mill Pond School during the 2008-2009 school years:

- Communications through a monthly parent newsletter, Connect-ed, and the school website.
- Accreditation for Preschool
- Enhanced behavioral/ emotional services for students
- Created a specialized program for students with severe special needs

- Increased integration of library media & technology standards
- Transition activities for students Pre-K, K-4 including a preschool graduation. Kindergarten Scavenger Hunt, and step-up days for grades 1-4.
- Training and implementation of Curriculum Components including Writing and Thinking Across the Curriculum, Everyday Mathematics, Responsive Classroom, Creative Curriculum, Applied Behavioral Analysis and Restraint Training.
- Supplemental Support Services for students in fourth grade.
- Completed the Performance Improvement Mapping (PIM) Process
- Implementation of school wide character education and violence prevention programs including Second Step Program, Steps to Success Program, Anti-Bullying Education, Character Trait Training, Student Recognition Program and Responsive Classroom.
- Implementation of the Old Mill Pond After School Program.

We would like to thank the following members of our School Council for their commitment and dedication:

Mary Lou Callahan, Co-Chair, Principal
 Paul Burns, Co-Chair, Community Representative
 Susan Farrell, Ex-Officio, Assistant Principal
 Catherine Simonoko, Teacher
 Melissa Edwards, Secretary, Teacher
 Valerie Wlodyka, Parent
 Alissa Purda, Parent
 Katherine Rock, Parent
 James Lynch, Community Representative

The Palmer Public School System is dedicated to providing professional development opportunities where the staff at Old Mill Pond School is kept abreast of current educational standards and teaching methods. The core of our evolving curriculum is the continued incorporation of the state standards as outlined in the current Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. We have solicited the talents and expertise of our Assistant Principal, Susan Farrell, to train a District Team in the PIM (Performance Improvement Mapping) Process, analyzing MCAS data and developing a District Improvement Plan.

Through the District Professional Development funds we have been able to maintain the work of Mr. Bill Atwood from the Collins Education Associates to work with our staff in order to ensure the continuity and consistency for the improvement of open response answers in the area of mathematics within the MCAS Assessment. Nancy Dorsky has provided training in the implementation of the Everyday Mathematics Program. This program is in its second year of implementation. All staff also received training in the teaching and learning needs of children with Autism and other Developmental Disabilities. At the early childhood level, ongoing training and support was provided to facilitate the implementation of the Creative Curriculum Program. Kindergarten teachers participated in Responsive Classroom training this past summer while first grade teachers will be trained this summer with implementation in the fall. This program integrates children's social, emotional and academic learning to create a strong and safe community within the classroom and larger school environment. Mrs. Kellaher, Mrs. Kuzmeski and Mrs. Netkovick benefited from taking part in the Introduction to Instructional Mentoring, a

mentor training that included training in formative assessments in the teaching of American History and sponsored through the Teaching American History Grant Extension Program.

In an attempt to assure that students develop the social skills needed to be productive members of the Old Mill Pond School Community, the delivery of guidance services was restructured to reflect a more integrated model, providing the guidance staff with training on the Second Step Program and utilizing outside resources such as the Domestic Violence Task Force, meeting weekly with guidance staff to ensure implementation of schedules to include classroom instruction/assessment; integration activities, large and small group instructional activities and parent educational outreach, along with researching and developing an integrated curriculum model for career development, character development and business partnerships.

In order to integrate learning and thinking skills that include critical thinking and problem-solving, communication skills, creativity and innovation skills, collaboration skills, contextual skills and information and media literacy skills, library media services was integrated with technology for students K-4, facilitating the development and implementation of the Massachusetts Recommended Standards for PreK-12, Information Literacy Skills.

Last year the Grinspoon foundation invited the Palmer Public Schools to participate in a very exciting teacher recognition program established by Harold Grinspoon. It is Mr. Grinspoon's desire to honor and celebrate educators for the work they do and to recognize the importance of the teaching profession. We here at Old Mill Pond School, recognized Mrs. Charwick as last year's recipient. This year we were proud to announce that Old Mill Pond staff, Mrs. North, first grade teacher, was the recipient of the Harold Grinspoon Excellence in Teaching Award. This award was presented to an individual who possesses professionalism through qualities such as excellence in teaching practices; his/her own professional development, good attendance, and their ability to demonstrate collaboration and cooperation.

Congratulations to all our students, parents and staff once again for supporting and raising over \$11,500 dollars during the Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser for the 2008/2009 school year. Mrs. Maliga challenged our school community, students, staff and parents to become involved in the American Hearts Association's, "Jump Rope for Heart" bringing our school to the forefront as number one in Western and Central Massachusetts two years in a row. It was through her efforts and success that I personally benefited from receiving the Principal of the Year Award, a national award given to one principal across the nation from the American Heart Association this past year. To her credit, I am most grateful. A special thank you to Lori Maliga, our physical education teacher, for leading the way.

Kim Sikorski, grade four student, is one of the State Finalists from the 2009 Banking Day Poster Contest for the Spring, Savings Makes \$ense Program sponsored by Country Bank for Savings in conjunction with the State Treasurer, Timothy P. Cahill. Kim utilized her math ability through art and written expression. She will be recognized along with our school at the State House in Boston on June 30th. Old Mill Pond School has a commitment to improve the financial literacy of our students by being involved in the \$avings Makes \$ense Program.

Mrs. Lisa Kelleher, grade three teacher, was awarded the Teacher of the Month Award during the Month of February which is sponsored by the Country Bank for Savings. Each month, WHYN Radio, 93.1 names a Teacher of the Month from the Hampden/Hampshire County selected from nominations. Mrs. Kelleher was nominated by a student within her classroom.

Together....Changing Lives....Saving Lives! Our students had the opportunity this year to benefit from the "The Hands & Words Are Not For Hurting Project" sponsored and funded by the Domestic Violence Task Force and is in partnership with the Second Step Program as well as the Character Education Program within our school. Our students have had the opportunity in taking the pledge through a field day activity finger painting their hands as a symbol of hope. As a reminder of the continued need for students to be using their hands and words for helping themselves and others, along with feeling safe in school and be treated with respect and equality, we begin each day saying the Pledge together along with the Hands & Words Are Not For Hurting Pledge.....

It's time to do our daily pledge
You have control over your words and your actions! No one makes you say
or do hurtful things.....what you say and what you do is always a choice. We
don't have control over anyone or anything but we do have control over
what we say and what we do.
I am Valuable
You are Valuable
I am a Valuable, Irreplaceable Human Being
You are a Valuable, Irreplaceable Human Being
I Will Not Use My Hands or My Words for Hurting Myself or Others.

"Community building must become the heart of any school improvement effort." A strong school community is built through the talents and strengths of everyone. Thanks must be extended to the members of our School Committee, Mrs. Mary Salzmann, Mrs. Maureen Gallagher, Mr. David Lynch, Mr. James St. Amand and Mr. Robert Janasiewicz for their continued support and countless hours to the Palmer Public Schools. We wish to thank all of the parents, students, and volunteers who assisted our students and staff in all areas of school life ~ tutoring, fundraisers, parties, field trips, and the parent-teacher organization activities. Volunteers are a critical component to the success of our educational programs. Their work and support has truly enriched our students' school experiences. Our PAW'S Officers are committed to and support the children at OMP. We are grateful to Tracey Kroll, Kim McCloskey, Sara Sullivan, Sheila Browne, Janine Andersen and Liz Lizotte for their countless hours of service.

The Palmer Public Schools joined in their effort to put together interested individuals, teachers, paraprofessionals, aides, janitors, kitchen staff and parents to assist our schools in recycling. Old Mill Pond's Green Team, along with the leadership of Megan Dunbar ventured forward in recycling paper goods. Students took responsibility for their future.

The Old Mill Pond School After-School Program continued to offer three, five week sessions with a myriad of course offerings focusing on enrichment activities, i.e., Arts & Crafts from the World of Nature, Walkers Club, Movers and Groovers, Kids Crafting Fun, etc. We are very

grateful for the assistance and organization of Mrs. Fontaine, school secretary along with Mrs. Bernat, the After School Program Coordinator, who managed the implementation of the program weekly. Parents, staff, high school students, and senior volunteers provided students with the necessary support as instructors with fun, excitement and educational learning experiences here at Old Mill Pond School. We look forward to providing next year many more opportunities for our students that will increase their appreciation of the arts, while supporting and strengthening our curriculum.

We continue our relationship with Pathfinder Regional Vocational School as students work with the children and teachers in the Early Childhood Program. The students from the National Honor Society at Palmer High School gave of their time in sharing their expertise as tutors within our elementary classrooms. Students from the eighth grade Interact Club provided an enjoyment of reading to our Grade 1 students. For their time and talents, we are forever grateful.

It is our staff that reflects the talents and strengths of our programs. We offer a welcoming, comfortable and enthusiastic school environment where each of us reflect and celebrate the differences of others. All of their contributions and presence make a significant difference.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Department of Special Services includes all special education programs, Title I programs, home and hospital tutoring, and Chapter 622 (discrimination). The department is also responsible for the screening of all youngsters entering kindergarten as well as three and four year-olds for possible special needs and early intervention programs. We are also responsible for writing many of the school system's state and federal grants.

The Palmer Public Schools is an Early Childhood (integrated preschool special needs) through Grade 12 School District and is a member of the Pathfinder Regional Vocational-Technical School District. It offers a full range of special needs programs at all levels and includes a full range of support services, including speech/language, occupational therapy, and school adjustment counseling. Services for low incidence children, such as vision teacher, services for the hearing impaired children, physical therapy, etc. are contracted annually as prescribed by the student's Individual Educational Plans (IEPs).

Thanks to the efforts of the Superintendent, the School Committee, the Town Office and the community, we were able to continue a revolving Medicaid Account for medical type services. This account allows us to channel monies generated by current children enrolled in programs who receive Mass Health Insurance into the contracted service account, thus freeing up funds for general education. A similar practice was established for tuition from special needs youngsters tuitioned into the Palmer Public Schools.

For the Department of Special Services, the 2009 school year was one of continued program improvement and development. As of December 2008, we show a decrease in the number of children receiving special education services. Our enrollment is 356 students as opposed to 362 in 2008. Of particular interest is the reduction in our student "Full Time Equivalents," which is an indicator of the amount of time a student is removed from the regular classroom to receive

pecially designed instruction. This decrease is attributed mostly to the efforts of the district in returning children to the regular classroom through 504 plans or, as the result of re-evaluations, no longer being eligible or requiring special educational assistance and only slightly due to reduced enrollment. The school system continues its effort, on the part of each of the schools, to meet children's needs within the classroom.

State and federal grants written and supervised by the department continue to assist in defraying some of the costs of special education. The Federal (#240 (94-142)) Special Education Grant, continues to fully fund the cost of one of our Early Childhood Programs as well as one speech and language pathologist and a number of paraprofessional instructional assistant positions. The State (#262) Early Childhood Grant provides speech assistance and screening services to children enrolled in private preschool programs and other early childhood age groups. The Federal Title I Grant (#305) continues to provide remedial math services to eligible youngsters in grades 3-7, as well as reading in grades 3-4 at Old Mill Pond School and reading and study skills at the Middle School. The entire grant is committed to staff salaries and instructional materials, including technology. This program provides services to approximately 225 youngsters in the elementary and middle schools.

The Drug Free Schools Grant (#331) continues to provide drug awareness and prevention information to staff, parents and students. This grant funds a Bullying Awareness program at Old Mill Pond School as well as "Guiding Good Choices," a prevention program for parents of children ages 9-14.

This year we have continued our integration of our Early Childhood Program. Both early childhood programs at Old Mill Pond School are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). A nominal fee is charged for the non-special needs children in the program. An evaluation of this program has shown tremendous support from the parents as well as a great benefit to the children.

The mainstreaming of special education students continues to be an area of emphasis. This year we have been able to mainstream a number of children through the use of one-to-one paraprofessionals, and have received tremendous cooperation and assistance from school administrators and staff.

This past year we have continued our Parent Advisory Council (PAC) for Special Education. This group of parents and professionals meets eight to ten times per year and addresses current topics of interest to parents. For more information on these meetings call Neil Metcalf, Director of Special Education at (413) 283-2651.

The Department of Special Services, in conjunction with the Palmer High School, has continued to utilize the alternative education program for Palmer High School students. This program increases options to high school students who are at risk of dropping out and help direct them to a more goal-oriented program. It will also provide an option to return some students, currently placed in out-of-district programs, and hopefully avoid the placement of children out of district.

The Department of Special Services continues to advocate for the education of all children in the least restrictive environment and to the maximum degree possible.

FACILITIES 2008-2009

The Facilities Department oversees the work performance of maintenance and custodial members in the school buildings, school bus transportation services, facility rentals, grounds upkeep and facility maintenance and improvements.

The buildings and grounds are in use virtually 7 days a week and well into the late evening by many civic and private groups in addition to the school programs.

Due to budget constraints and a reduction in personnel, the facilities department was limited to only a handful of projects this year. Our primary focus was on extensive training with personnel regarding emergency and safety procedures relating to building infrastructure. We did manage to install fire department lock boxes at all three schools as well as a handicapped egress ramp at the high school and rebuilt three air handling units at the middle school.

As always we cannot express enough how truly grateful we are to the other town departments who continually provide outstanding support, services and expertise.

Special thanks to the Parks and Highway Departments for all they do year round with the grounds. Their efforts are very much appreciated.

PATHFINDER REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School District Committee presents this report to the citizens of the District. With the addition of the town of Warren to the District, the school committee currently consists of ten members. At the biennial state election in November 2006, incumbents Michael Cavanaugh, Robert Dupuis, Michael O'Connor, and Barbara Ray were re-elected to four-year terms. Mr. Cavanaugh and David Droz, of Palmer, continue as chairman and vice-chairman, respectively.

CURRICULUM

Pathfinder students have continued to "hold their own" and have demonstrated continued improvement in their performance and achievement on the MCAS tests. The number of students who scored in the "Advanced" category continued to be encouraging. Also, 97% of the sophomores passed the ELA portion during the March testing period, and 91% passed the mathematics portion. These results clearly indicate the dedication of the staff, the effectiveness of the extra classes, and the importance and value students now place on their MCAS performance. For the fifth consecutive cycle, Pathfinder met the standard for "Adequate Yearly Progress" prescribed in the "No Child Left Behind" law.

In an effort to address the upcoming science portion of MCAS, teachers continued to fine-tune the scope and sequence of the science curriculum to include several sections of Engineering and Technology.

To accompany the high quality curriculum mapping done in mathematics, the Department purchased a new set of Algebra I books so that all students taking that course would have the

advantage of the same material. In addition, an Algebra II course for entering 9th graders was designed to challenge those students who had already taken Algebra I.

The school committee also approved a \$40,000 appropriation for the general area of “student assessment.” Those funds were utilized to purchase and install the computerized Reading program entitled *Read 180*. The funds also enabled the school to acquire equipment that will assist teachers in scoring and analyzing standardized tests. Both expenditures are expected to help boost students’ scores on MCAS.

As we entered our second year of *Project Lead the Way* (PLTW), the staff was and continues to be excited about the potential for this program. Currently a science elective, this offering will eventually lead to a comprehensive and rigorous pre-engineering program involving several technical departments. Our instructors continued to participate in professional development training designed specifically for PLTW during the summer at Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

Following Department of Education approval, Pathfinder offered for the first time two separate programs in Information Technology: Programming and Web Page Design and Office Technology. Additional and updated technology was added to these programs as student numbers continued to increase.

In direct response to local employment needs and a steady increase in students selecting Health Occupations, Pathfinder expanded the program by adding an additional teacher. The school’s affiliations with area hospitals and health care facilities continued to provide positive learning experiences for the students, and the expansion of the program should prove beneficial for all concerned.

Pathfinder continued to build on several of the efforts that were launched during the previous school year, including:

- Expansion of the mandatory portfolio requirement in academic and vocational studies for all freshmen and the continued investigation of the use of digital portfolios.
- Reinstitution of the Renaissance Program and the continuation of the trimester system for 2007-08
- Continued on-site staff development in cooperation with Westfield State College, including the course entitled *Standards Based Curriculum in a Vocational Environment*.
- Training in Red Cross CPR and First Aid and OSHA for students and staff as appropriate.
- Alignment of vocational programs with the newly developed state curriculum frameworks in preparation for offering the Certificate of Occupational Proficiency—a new credential for vocational students.

Municipal and community service projects continued to be important components of the Pathfinder curriculum for junior and senior students. These projects also constitute a major portion of the school’s commitment to local town departments. The following list is a sample of such efforts completed over the past year: Auto Body students and their instructor organized and ran the Annual Pathfinder car show, the proceeds from which benefit the Skills/USA Program at Pathfinder. They also painted grave markers for the local AMVETS.

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY
AMBULANCE, FIRE AND POLICE EMERGENCY - 911

For Questions Regarding:

Call this Department:

Phone:

Appeals (zoning issues)	Appeals, Board of	283-2605
Assessments, Abatements	Assessors, Board of	283-2607
Building Permits, Electric Permits, Plumbing, gas & wiring Permits, Zoning Enforcement	Building Inspector	283-2638
Burial Records, Cemetery Plots	Cemetery	283-2665
Emergency Preparedness, Catastrophe	Civil Defense	283-8792
Future planning for Palmer	Community Development Dept. Palmer Redevelopment Authority	283-2614 283-4100
Wetlands Management	Conservation Commission	283-2611
Senior activities, Information & Transportation	Council on Aging	283-2670
Animal Control	Dog Officer	283-7770
Health, Sanitation, Septic Permits/Title V, Food & Beverage License & Tobacco License	Health, Board Of	283-2606
Road Maintenance, snow & ice removal	Department of Public Works	283-2615
Alcohol Beverage Information	License Commission	283-2608
Federally funded elderly housing	Palmer Housing Authority	283-9311
All library services	Palmer Public Library	283-3330
Park & Field Maintenance	Department of Public Works	283-2615
Planning, Land Use, Zoning	Planning Board	283-2605
Public Schools	Schools:	
	Converse Middle School	283-2641
	Old Mill Pond Elementary	283-2630
	Palmer High School	283-2621
	Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School	283-9701
	Superintendent of Schools	283-2650
Scale, weight Certification	Sealer of Weights & Measures (Residence)	283-4070
Committee Appointments, Class I, II & III Licenses, Amusement/Entertainment Licenses, Street Entrance, Street Excavation	Town Manager	283-2603
Parking Tickets, Property & Excise Tax Bills	Tax Collector	283-2601
General Accounting	Town Accountant	283-2602
Births, Deaths, Marriages, Dog Licenses, Fishing & Hunting Licenses, Business Certificates, Elections & Voter Registration	Town Clerk	283-2608
Bill Payment, Payroll, Insurance Benefits	Town Treasurer	283-2600
Veteran's Information/Referrals Benefits	Veteran's Agent	283-2610
EMERGENCY NUMBERS - 911	Fire - Bondsville	283-9036
	Palmer	283-3861
	Thorndike	283-3861

